



Inside: 6-page special section

Expanded coverage of the 2020 election results from around the nation.

E2

ELECTION 2020

FIGHT TO FINISH

Biden holds lead: ‘The process is working’

Trump campaign disputes some results

White House hopeful, but bracing for loss



Crowds gather outside a Detroit ballot count site. RYAN GARZA/USA TODAY NETWORK



An election worker examines ballots in Atlanta. BRYNN ANDERSON/AP

So how wrong were the polls this time? It’s complicated

Ryan W. Miller
USA TODAY

Yet again, the polls were all wrong, some pundits declared.

“The polling industry is a wreck, and should be blown up,” proclaimed Politico Playbook, a newsletter emblematic of “inside the Beltway” conversations, on Wednesday morning.

After a massive miss in 2016, when Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton was pegged as the favorite over long shot Donald Trump, pollsters did it again this year, many said. Democrat Joe Biden was supposed to win by margins of 8 percentage points.

Despite the rhetoric, the picture of how far off polls were in comparison with the actual vote is murkier.

In Wisconsin, Ohio and Florida, there was a clear underestimation of Trump support. In other battleground states, preelection polls were right on the money. The true scope and cause of error won’t be known until all votes are counted and a post-election analysis is done.

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The count: Just the facts

False claims about the election count are rampant. We break it down. **4A**

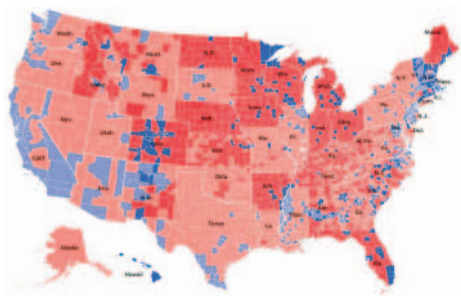
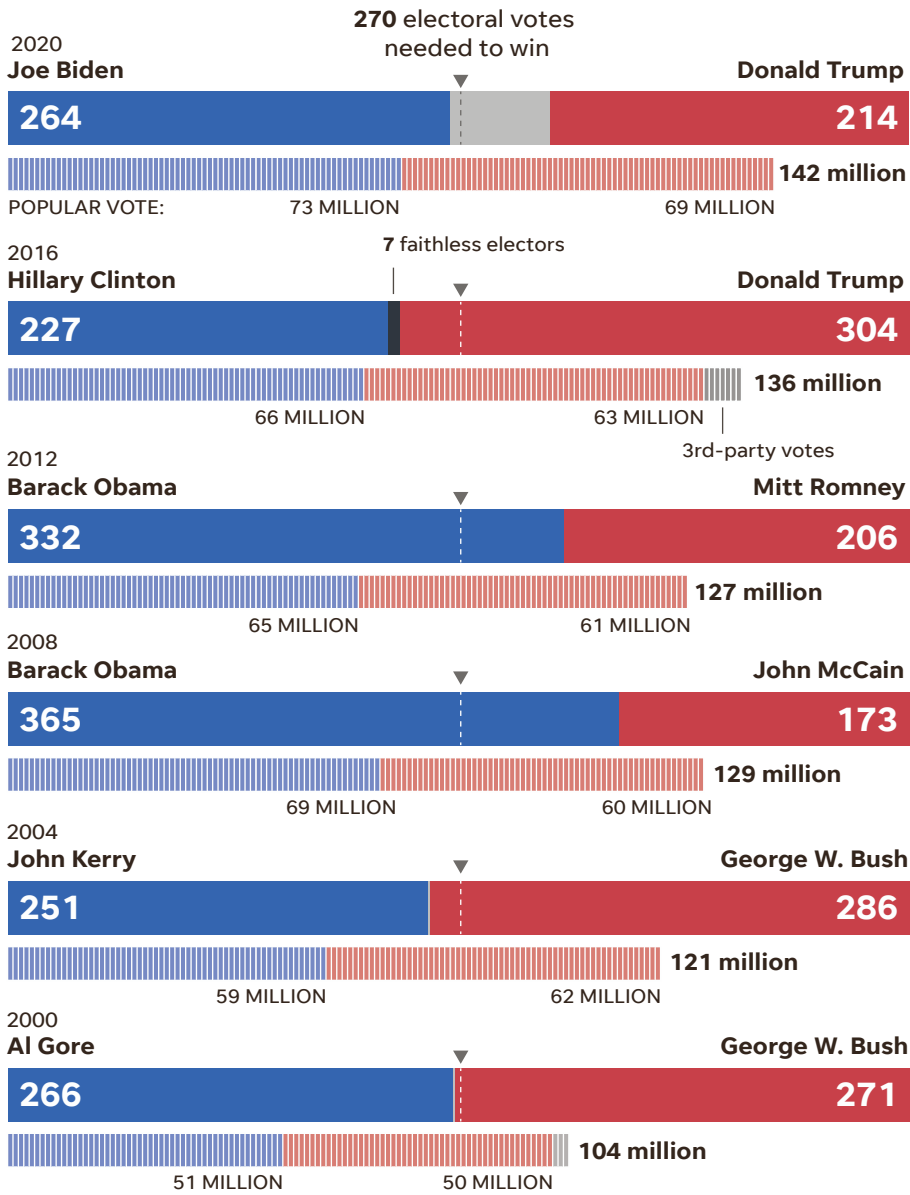
Ga.: The new swing state

With close races, many say Democrats have Stacey Abrams to thank. **4A**

GOP wins statehouses

Most legislatures likely to be red as they redraw state, federal districts. **3D**

Two decades of presidential elections



BY THE NUMBERS

County-by-county results across US

Plus: A closer look at party control of the Senate and House, and which states saw strongest early voting in 2020 compared with four years ago. **1D**

Bitter battle is nearing an end

Without proof, Trump casts doubt on votes

Bart Jansen, Tom Vanden Brook and David Jackson
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The bitterly fought race for the White House waged amid a historic, deadly pandemic neared its finish Thursday with signs pointing to a win for Democrat Joe Biden and an increasingly desperate President Donald Trump seeking to muddle or overturn the results.

The election hinged on vote counts in only a few states: Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Georgia and Nevada. A Biden win in his native Pennsylvania would seal the election and cap a life-time dream for the former vice president and senator with more than 40 years in public office. Trump, meanwhile, trailing in the vote count or facing strong challenges in each state, lashed out Thursday, trying to cast doubt on the validity of the vote as he sought a second term.

At a news conference at the White House, Trump claimed without evidence that the election was fraught with illegal votes that could rob him of victory. He primarily blamed mail-in ballots, a form of voting that several states have used for years, for “stealing” the election – again, citing no evidence.

“They’re trying to steal an election,” Trump said.

Some Trump advisers were skeptical that the campaign’s lawsuits will do

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ELECTION 2020

Ongoing vote counts put focus on system

America’s election equipment is aging

Pat Beall
USA TODAY

Heading into Wednesday’s marathon absentee ballot count, one of every 10 Wisconsin and North Carolina jurisdictions were scanning absentee ballots on equipment so old it is no longer manufactured. And Georgia was tabulating ballots on a new system marred when electronic poll books failed to check in voters in some counties.

America’s aging election equipment didn’t appear to be a major, nationwide factor at the polls Tuesday. Nor did brand-new replacement equipment, which states like Georgia rolled out in a historic presidential contest.

“For a system like a roller coaster built on wood with the expectation of high-speed cars driving on it, things went pretty good,” said Gregory Miller, co-founder and chief operating officer of the OSET Institute, an election technology research nonprofit. “Nobody got ejected.”

Yet because there’s no way to publicly document election system problems nationwide, no one really knows how widespread election day machine failures were, or whether small stumbles were part of a bigger pattern.

Issues at one or two precincts can be shrugged off as glitches even as similar problems might occur in other counties. Election officials – and voters – can be left in the dark.

An influx of \$400 million in federal coronavirus relief money earlier this year helped pay to replace aging systems. But it fell far short of an estimated \$3.4 billion needed for managing elections in the middle of a pandemic. And even new systems come with their own challenges.

Take e-poll books, electronic tablets precinct poll workers use to check in registered voters in place of written voter rolls.

Spalding County, Georgia, made



Election officials in Arizona’s Maricopa County count remaining ballots on Thursday. / NICK OZA/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC-USA TODAY NETWORK

Yet because there’s no way to publicly document election system problems nationwide, no one really knows how widespread election day machine failures were.

headlines when its e-poll books didn’t work Tuesday morning. Morgan and DeKalb counties, also in Georgia, reported problems with the same type of e-poll books. The books were fixed, and a federal judge ordered DeKalb and

Spalding to keep the doors open longer to make up for the time voters could not cast ballots.

Far from Georgia, reports of e-poll book problems surfaced in Franklin County, Ohio; Christian County, Missouri; and three Texas counties. Most were fixed quickly. All used the same Missouri vendor, KNOWiNK. So do hundreds of other jurisdictions from North Dakota to Utah, according to data gathered by Verified Voting, a nonprofit advocacy group tracking election systems.

KNOWiNK did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

“There is no question that (a national database) would be helpful to election officials,” said Lawrence Norden, director of the Brennan Center for Justice’s Election Reform Program. A decade ago,

Norden wrote a Brennan Center report detailing how such a database would have helped identify repeated machine failures. Not only could it guide purchases, Norden said, it could also help local election officials better understand the equipment they are using.

For instance, nothing indicates that an older model of optical scanner being used to count absentees in Wisconsin created problems there. But reports of trouble have surfaced elsewhere. Norden’s study reported that in 2002 in Florida, the same model read 2,642 Democratic and Republican votes as all Republican votes. A small Iowa contest in 2006 reported switched votes. An Arizona county in 2008 reported numbers for five polling places were inflated in a presidential primary between John McCain and Mitt Romney.

Multiple companies selling election systems frequently maintain, troubleshoot and investigate problems in the same systems, points out Susan Greenhalgh, senior adviser on election security for the nonprofit advocacy group Free Speech For People. Without better information, “election officials just take the vendors’ word on the failure,” she said. Election workers and voters have frequently been blamed for missteps. But just as open-source software can lead to improved security, election system vendors could also benefit from a public airing of issues in a national database, Norden said.

“It would give them an opportunity to be able to explain how they have improved or addressed the problems,” he said. Another concern: Any confusion caused by voting machines can invite legal challenges, especially in close races.

On the other hand, clarity about problems could go a long way toward quashing conspiracy theories before they get started, Miller said, such as Wednesday’s viral claim that felt-tip pens could not be read by Arizona vote tabulators. Hours after the rumor surfaced, election officials were still trying to bat down unsubstantiated “Sharpie-gate” claims.

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ELECTION 2020

Polls

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The American Association for Public Opinion Research cautioned against “hasty conclusions based on incomplete returns.”

“The results of preelection polls do vary from the current vote results in some battleground states. When all the votes are counted, some of the hundreds of polls conducted on this election will come close to the final vote percentages, but some will not. This has been the case in every election. The issue is how the polls collectively performed in describing the official results of the 2020 election,” the group said in a statement.

Regardless, a reckoning with the disconnect many Americans feel between the pollsters and the actual vote may be needed, some pollsters said.

There are “states where it looks like we have these really bad performances,” said Joshua Dyck, director for the Center for Public Opinion at UMass Lowell. “On the one hand, we have this big polling error (in Wisconsin, Ohio and Florida), and on the other hand, how many times has (pollster) Ann Selzer been right in Iowa?”

Where were the polls wrong?

“It’s pretty clear that the support for Donald Trump was underestimated in national and in many state polls,” said Michael Traugott, a research professor at the University of Michigan’s Center for Political Studies.

The full extent of that underestimation will take time to understand, Traugott and Dyck said. Polling data that showed Biden with an average lead of 7.2 percentage points, according to RealClearPolitics’ average, and 8.4 points, according to FiveThirtyEight’s average, could be wrong.

In 2016, national preelection polls weren’t that far off from the popular vote. Clinton was up by about 3 points before Election Day, according to RealClearPolitics, and won the popular vote by 2%.

State level data is where 2016 missed on Trump’s support, which was enough to win states that tilted the Electoral College in his favor. A post-election analysis by the American Association for Public Opinion Research concluded that state-level polling before Election Day “clearly underestimated Trump’s support in the Upper Midwest.”

That makes the error in Wisconsin all the more glaring. FiveThirtyEight showed Biden’s lead in the Badger State at almost 8.5 points. RealClearPolitics showed his polling lead as more than 6.5 points. Days before the election, a poll released by The New York Times and Siena College of more than 1,200 likely voters in Wisconsin showed Biden leading the race by a whopping 11 points.

Votes are still being counted, many of which are mail-in ballots that may boost Biden’s lead after news organizations forecast him to win Wisconsin’s 10 elec-



Matthew Woods leads Trump supporters in song in Detroit on Thursday after Joe Biden won the state of Michigan. RYAN GARZA/USA TODAY NETWORK

toral votes. After about 99% of votes were counted, Biden led by a fraction of a percent Thursday afternoon.

In Iowa, a local pollster exemplified how some polls were right in 2020, Dyck said. Selzer’s data, part of the Des Moines Register/Mediacom Iowa Poll, showed a Trump lead of 7 points in the final days of October. (The Des Moines Register is part of the USA TODAY Network.)

Compared with a RealClearPolitics’ average of a 2-point Trump lead and FiveThirtyEight’s average of a 1.3-point lead, the Iowa poll drew criticism before votes rolled in. The poll conducted by Selzer has been a Register exclusive since 1943 and lauded for its accuracy.

“Everybody starts saying, ‘She’s terrible, she’ll be fired, pay no attention,’” Selzer told the Register. “This has happened to me many, many times.”

Trump won Iowa by 8.2 points after 99% of the vote was counted Thursday.

Selzer’s data captured the Senate race between Republican Sen. Joni Ernst and Democratic challenger Theresa Greenfield. RealClearPolitics’ average of the polls had Ernst up by 1.4 points. In the Iowa poll, Ernst was favored by 46% to Greenfield’s 42%. Preliminary results Wednesday showed Ernst winning by a 6.7-point difference.

Are errors a repeat of 2016?

Preelection polls capture a moment in time. They’re a snapshot of where the “likely electorate” stands. To get to the numbers that are often repeated in the news, it’s not as simple as asking voters whom they like, then dividing by the total number of voters polled and getting a percentage.

Pollsters – who reach people via home phone, cellphone and online survey – make assumptions because the pool is not always representative of the demographics of the electorate. How pollsters go from their larger data pool to a “likely voter” is an informed guess, said Courtney Kennedy, the Pew Research Center’s director of survey research. That process is “ultimately part

art and part science,” she said.

Pollsters need to be more transparent about their “likely voter” models, Dyck said. “That process is incredibly opaque,” he said. “For an industry that prides itself on transparency, there is often no information by, I would say, the majority of pollsters of how likely voters are selected.”

The errors in preelection data from 2016 have been attributed to many causes, but one that pollsters and political analysts almost all repeat is how education was weighted in poll data.

Weighting occurs when a pollster makes an adjustment to data to try to make it more representative of the population, according to the American Association for Public Opinion Research. “Weighting is used to adjust the relative contribution of the respondents, but it does not involve any changes to the actual answers to survey questions.”

In 2016, state polls in the Upper Midwest probably did not adequately account for the overrepresentation of college graduates in their surveys that correlated with an overestimation of support for Clinton, the American Association for Public Opinion Research’s postmortem report concluded.

Pollsters vowed 2020 would be different. Adjustments were made, more data came in, closer to Election Day and from higher-quality, trusted sources, pollsters said. Traugott said a full examination of whether the 2016 errors were fixed and what new problems could have arisen in 2020 will take time and rigorous peer review.

He and Dyck hypothesized that polls may have been affected by the change in how people voted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dyck suggested that pollsters’ data was too heavily skewed in favor of the early and mail-in Biden voters because they were more likely to be “at home” and taking heightened pandemic precautions when a pollster’s call came in or they saw a survey.

Contributing: Katie Akin

Trump: Election will go to high court

He accuses Dems of trying to ‘steal’ election

Courtney Subramanian and David Jackson

USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump leveled a series of accusations Thursday against the system of counting presidential ballots, suggesting Democrats were trying to “steal” the election from him.

As his Democratic rival Joe Biden appeared on the verge of securing the number of Electoral College votes needed to win the White House, Trump predicted the outcome would wind up in the Supreme Court.

“If you count the legal votes, I easily win. If you count the illegal votes, they can try to steal the election from us,” Trump said at the White House late Thursday without offering evidence to back up the claim of illegal votes being cast.

Trump’s lead in several states, including Georgia and Pennsylvania, shrank as more mailed ballots were counted and Biden inched toward the 270 electoral votes needed to win.

“It’s going to end up, perhaps, at the highest court in the land,” Trump said.

The president said the elections were run “by Democrats.” Georgia and Arizona, two states that still had outstanding votes, are run by Republican governors.

“We were winning in all the key locations by a lot, actually,” Trump said. “And then our numbers started miraculously getting whittled away in secret.”

Biden appeared hours earlier in Delaware and urged the nation to remain patient. He said he was confident he would win the cliffhanger contest, but he stopped short of declaring victory.

“It is the will of the voters, no one, not anything else, that chooses the president of the United States of America,” he said. “Democracy is sometimes messy. It sometimes requires a little patience as well. But that patience has been rewarded now for more than 240 years with a system of governance that’s been the envy of the world.”

Trump has for weeks sought to raise questions about the validity of mail-in voting, though there has been no evidence of voter fraud.

Contributing: John Fritze and Michael Collins



Trump

Battle

Continued from Page 1A

anything to change the count. They also were concerned that Pennsylvania would finish its count soon and that networks would project a Biden victory in the state, essentially making him president-elect.

Biden campaign officials voiced confidence – and urged patience waiting for vote counts in competitive states. The candidate who amasses 270 Electoral College votes – there is one each for the seats in Congress, plus three for the District of Columbia – wins the White House. Biden had 264 Electoral College votes late Thursday, compared with Trump’s 214.

“We are absolutely confident that Joe Biden will be the next president of the United States,” said Jen O’Malley Dillon, Biden’s campaign manager.

Meanwhile, Trump thundered threats of lawsuits Thursday against voter and election fraud without citing evidence that either existed. His campaign issued an all-caps statement in his name: “IF YOU COUNT THE LEGAL VOTES, I EASILY WIN THE ELECTION! IF YOU COUNT THE ILLEGAL AND LATE VOTES, THEY CAN STEAL THE ELECTION FROM US!”

The key battlegrounds:

● **Pennsylvania.** On Thursday afternoon, Trump clung to a narrow lead of 1.8% of the vote. His lead had eroded from 11 points on election night. More

than 570,000 mail-in ballot had yet to be counted, many of them on Biden-friendly turf. Trump needs Pennsylvania’s trove of 20 electoral votes, but Biden was steadily gaining ground. His supporters expect that gap to close further when the remainder of the votes was counted, particularly in the Democratic stronghold of Philadelphia.

“He’s going to win the state,” said U.S. Sen. Bob Casey, a Democrat from Scranton. “No question about it.”

● **Nevada.** Biden was leading in Nevada, a state that Hillary Clinton claimed in 2016 by 8,000 votes. The state was Trump’s last hope to flip a state Democrats won four years ago after he lost Minnesota and New Hampshire. Biden expanded his lead over Trump to about 1% in Nevada on Thursday in the contest for six Electoral College votes.

Secretary of State Barbara Cegavske said late Thursday that about 190,000 ballots statewide remained to be counted. About 90% of the ballots were in populous Clark County, which includes Las Vegas and leans Democratic.

● **Georgia.** Trump was leading by less than 1% of the vote late Thursday. Georgia was still counting mail-in ballots, and these could favor Democrats. As in Pennsylvania, Trump has watched his lead steadily evaporate. Sixteen electoral votes were on the line in Georgia, where Trump won handily in 2016.

Brad Raffensperger, the Georgia secretary of state, tweeted Thursday afternoon that 47,863 ballots remained to be counted. “We anticipate getting through

this process today,” he had told reporters earlier in the day

“The race is a true toss-up,” O’Malley Dillon said.

● **North Carolina.** Trump’s best hope for a win among the contested states was North Carolina. On Thursday, with 94% of ballots counted, Trump held an edge of 50.1% to Biden’s 48.7% for the state’s 15 electoral votes.

The Trump campaign has pursued a variety of lawsuits in the competitive states, urging a recount in one state and a halt to voting in other states – including one where he is losing.

In Michigan, which was called in favor of Biden, a judge rejected the campaign’s request to halt counting until campaign representatives could get “meaningful access” to the process. The judge ruled that counting was already finished and that there was no legal basis for Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson to provide access to surveillance video of drop boxes.

In Georgia, the Trump campaign accused the Chatham County Board of Elections of improperly mingling ineligible ballots with valid ones. But the judge dismissed the case after hearing from the chairman of the board of registrars, who testified the ballots were received on time.

Bob Bauer, an expert in election law who is advising the Biden campaign, said Trump’s lawsuits were disruptive and intended only for messaging.

“This strategy of disrupting the vote count is doomed to fail,” Bauer said.

Contributing: Candy Woodall

USA TODAY

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ELECTION 2020

Some say president’s strong showing reflects bigotry in US

Trump supporters force close race with Biden

Jorge L. Ortiz
USA TODAY

As the presidential election unfolded over the past few days, Crystal Webster heard colleagues in academia and white progressive friends express their dismay that President Donald Trump initially led in early returns and was still within hailing distance of reelection Wednesday.

Webster, an assistant professor of history at the University of Texas at San Antonio who specializes in race relations, was hardly surprised at Trump’s polls-defying level of support, even amid a pandemic and an economic downturn.

“For people of color who, like me, have been living in this reality for a while now, we have a more cynical outlook,” said Webster, who is Black.

The protest movement against racial inequality and injustice that proliferated throughout the U.S. after the death of George Floyd and gained momentum with the fatal shootings of Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery raised hopes for major changes in how America deals with race.

Many expected those changes to begin with an electoral repudiation of Trump.

Instead, Trump defied projections that had him behind by 8-10 percentage points in the general election and losing most battleground states – possibly even getting routed.

Instead, he has ridden what was likely strong support among white voters to a photo finish in the race with Democratic nominee Joe Biden.

Contrary to what some Republicans feared, Trump did not drag down the ballot, and the GOP looks primed to retain control of the Senate.

Webster finds the notion that about half the country supports Trump’s views “very alarming,” and worries about her loved ones living among people who share those ideas, even if Biden ends up winning.

“It feels as though we’re in the throes



Protesters marched from the Louisville Free Public Library during the “No Justice No Halloween” march in honor of Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Ky., on Oct. 29 SAM UPSHAW JR./COURIER JOURNAL VIA IMAGN CONTENT SERVICES, LLC

of experiencing backlash to racial progress,” Webster said. “I think some of this is backlash against President Obama’s election and the changing demographics of this country, and even the mobilization of progressive movements we experienced this summer with Black Lives Matter. I think Trump’s base has really mobilized around that and has taken up his call and embraced the white supremacy that he has unabashedly espoused.”

Webster noted that historically there hasn’t been a strong electoral rejection of white supremacy in a country where white people make up about 62% of the population and control the majority of the levers of power.

According to CNN polls, 1 in 3 voters ranked the economy as their leading concern, with racial equality second but considerably further back, named as the top issue by 1 out of every 5. Alvin Tillery, director of the Center for the Study of Diversity and Democracy at Northwestern University, said he didn’t expect the widespread calls for an end to the systemic racism that reverberated through summer demonstrations would

carry over to the ballot box.

“I’ve always been somewhat skeptical about the translation of millennial activism and Gen Z activism into votes,” Tillery said. “For them, protesting and voting and posting online, it’s all pretty much in the same realm. So you may have people who went out and protested for 30, 40, 50 days but didn’t vote.”

But Tillery was heartened by the turnout of Black voters, who are believed to have played a critical role in the Democratic victory in Michigan – with close to 90% voting for Biden – and might help the party flip Georgia. While the votes were still getting counted in key states like Pennsylvania, Arizona and Georgia, Black Lives Matter Global Network released a statement from executive director Patrisse Cullors.

“We must fight to make sure every vote is counted, because there is too much at stake for Black people and for our movement to stop fighting now,” said Cullors, who highlighted the electoral victories of Black candidates across the country.

Abrams gets credit for close contest

Her efforts solidified Georgia as swing state

Matthew Brown
USA TODAY

With the nation’s eyes on Georgia’s ballot count, former Vice President Joe Biden continues to cut into President Donald Trump’s narrow lead in the state, giving Democrats the best chance of winning there since 1992.

Republican Sen. David Perdue’s vote tally against Democratic challenger Jon Ossoff had dropped below 50% Wednesday. Without a majority of the vote, that race would join a separate runoff between Republican Sen. Kelly Loeffler and Democratic challenger Rev. Raphael Warnock scheduled for Jan. 5.

The results underscore the new political reality in a state that Republicans still considered safely red only four years ago.

The state, which has trended more blue in the past decade, is indisputably purple – and is likely to shade even further blue in the future.

While most of Georgia’s shifting political landscape can be attributed to changing demographics, especially in the Atlanta metropolitan area, progressive activists can be credited for quickening the state’s leftward tilt.

In the run-up to the Nov. 3 election, Democrats heavily invested in Georgia. Biden, Sen. Kamala Harris and former President Barack Obama all made high-profile stops in the state. Joining Biden and Obama was Stacey Abrams.

“We know that 10 years ago they wrote off the state of Georgia,” said Abrams, the former minority leader of the state’s House of Representatives and 2018 Democratic gubernatorial nominee.

“But since that time we have been growing and growing ... and now we’re grown! We are ready to be the blue state that we were meant to be,” Abrams said.

Abrams is one of the most influential



Former representative Stacey Abrams speaks at a rally Monday. ELIJAH NOUVELAGE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

progressive leaders in the state, many say, and for years has said it could go blue.

“Whatever happens in Georgia, everyone should get on their knees and thank strong Black women like the fearless @staceyabrams and so many who slog away without appreciation,” Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., tweeted.

Abrams founded The New Georgia Project in 2013, an initiative focused on registering minority voters in the state in an effort to broaden the electorate.

In her 2018 run for governor, Abrams championed a strategy of increasing voter turnout among groups – most importantly from communities of color – who were already amenable to a Democratic platform.

Abrams lost the race by only 1.5% to Republican Brian Kemp in a contest that left conservatives alarmed and progressives embittered.

Abrams refused to concede the election, accusing Kemp, then the secretary of state who oversaw the election, of fostering voter suppression and causing an “erosion of our democracy,” arguing the state had “failed its voters.”

MISINFORMATION

Fact-checkers work hard to investigate allegations

They try to discount fraud across America

USA TODAY NETWORK

Misinformation filled social media before the election – outlandish claims by candidates, about officials and from people questioning the whole process.

Since Election Day, there have been allegations of ballots “magically” appearing overnight, claims of disenfranchisement and reports of inflated voter turnout.

Fact-checkers have been working to counter and false allegations across Facebook, Instagram and beyond.

No extra votes

Allegation: Wisconsin election officials “took a break” counting ballots, and when they returned, Democrat Joe Biden was ahead by 100,000 votes.

Truth: Biden never led by that large of a margin in Wisconsin, and officials didn’t stop counting.

No sign of fraud

Allegation: A spike in Wisconsin’s vote tally was a sign of fraud.

Truth: The increase came when Milwaukee’s absentee ballots, which take longer to process than those cast in person, were counted. It was not a sign of fraud.

Counting not stopped

Allegation: Some Democrat-led states stopped counting ballots to assure Biden remained in the lead.

Truth: Pauses or delays in posting results were anticipated because absentee ballots – cast in record numbers – take longer to count.

Typo, not a sign of high jinks

Allegation: 100,000 votes were “magically” added to Biden’s total in Michigan

Truth: A clerical error at a website that tallies votes – not an official elections site – misstated the total for Biden and corrected the typo within 15 minutes.

High voter turnout rate

Allegation: There have been more votes cast in Wisconsin than there are registered voters

Truth: There are more than 3.6 million registered voters in Wisconsin, and 3.2 million votes were cast.

Sharpies work on ballots

Allegation: Arizona officials handed voters Sharpies, a type of pen that, when used, invalidates a ballot.

Truth: The Arizona secretary of state said ballots filled out with Sharpies would be counted. The Elections Department in Maricopa County, where Phoenix is located, said Sharpies are the preferred pen for ballots.

No wall outside White House

Allegation: President Donald Trump had a massive wall installed in front of the White House.

Truth: Fencing was installed this week, similar to what was in place during protests that followed the death of George Floyd, but there is no wall.

Ballots not thrown away

Allegation: A “poll worker” in Pennsylvania claimed to have thrown away ballots.

Truth: The person who made the claim on social media is not a poll worker or affiliated with the county. Poll workers cannot access ballots in a way that would permit disposal.

COVID-19 voters can get ballots

Allegation: Pennsylvania officials are “attempting to silence voters exposed to COVID-19 by telling them they can’t vote in person.

Truth: Pennsylvania voters exposed to COVID-19 can request emergency absentee ballots to vote.



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NATION/WORLD

Fort Hood soldier in custody in 2019 killing

He’s charged in death of Cheatham

Grace Hauck and Heather Osbourne
USA TODAY

A Fort Hood soldier has been arrested in the 2019 homicide of 32-year-old Chelsea Cheatham in Killeen, Texas, according to police.

Cory Grafton, 20, was taken into custody Tuesday on charges of first-degree felony murder. He was at the scene when Cheatham was killed, and his DNA matched what was found on Cheatham, according to a Killeen Police Department news release Wednesday.

He was being held on \$1 million bond, according to Bell County Jail.

Grafton is an active-duty soldier assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, spokesman Lt. Col. Chris Brautigam told USA TODAY. Brautigam said the unit was cooperating with the Killeen Police Department and the Texas Rangers.

Cheatham was killed at a Days Inn on the Central Texas Expressway in June 2019. Police were sent to the hotel on reports of a woman who was unconscious and not breathing. Officers tried to revive her, but she was pronounced dead, police said. An autopsy recently determined the manner of death was a homicide. Justice of the Peace Daryl Peters ordered the autopsy at the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences in Dallas.

Fort Hood, the U.S. Army’s largest military installation, has the highest rates of violent crime in the U.S. Army, Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy told Congress in July. Fort Hood and Killeen also were the sites of three mass shootings in the past 30 years.

The Central Texas post is now at the center of military, congressional and independent investigations into its leaders and several of its soldiers’ deaths. Two of the cases listed in the congressional investigation involve reports of sexual assault and harassment, which sparked a separate investigation into how the post handles claims of sexual misconduct.

The U.S. Army announced in early September that Fort Hood’s top commander, Maj. Gen. Scott Efflandt, would be stepping down from his position to serve as the deputy commanding general of the base in Killeen. Data collected by The New York Times shows that more troops from Fort Hood have died by homicides on and off the post since 2016 than have died in combat zones. The Times found 159 noncombat deaths of Fort Hood soldiers since the beginning of 2016, which included seven homicides and 71 suicides. The national spotlight on Fort Hood began to intensify this year after the disappearance of 20-year-old Army Spc. Vanessa Guillen of Houston. In April, Guillen vanished at the base, and her remains were found three months later.

Army officials identified 20-year-old Spc. Aaron David Robinson of Illinois as a suspect in her disappearance and killing. Last month, U.S. Army officials announced Guillen died “in the line of duty.” She was one of at least four soldiers who died by homicide in 2020.

Contributing: Chuck Lindell, Austin-American Statesman



A drive-through COVID-19 testing site Wednesday in El Paso, where hospitals were near a breaking point with 3,100 new infections. BRIANA SANCHEZ/EL PASO TIMES-USA TODAY NETWORK

Daily cases top 100,000; seven-day record falls

70 people a minute test positive for the coronavirus

John Bacon and Mike Stucka
USA TODAY

Another day, another set of records falls as the explosion in COVID-19 infections roars undeterred across the nation.

Wednesday’s one-day record count of 102,831 was the first daily total to surpass 100,000. It translates to an average of more than 70 Americans reporting positive every minute. A USA TODAY analysis of Johns Hopkins data through late Wednesday shows 22 states set records for new cases for a seven day period – and five states had a record number of deaths in a week.

Four NFL teams closed their practice facilities Thursday and at least four college football games scheduled for this weekend were shelved as the pandemic crept through the sports world.

“The seasonal uptick has been predicted for months,” said Dennis Carroll, who led the pandemic unit at the federal Agency for International Development for nearly 15 years. “We knew this would happen, but denial has ruled.”

The week ending Wednesday had 629,012 new cases reported.

It’s worth noting that the week ending Oct. 25 set a record, too – with 481,511 cases. We’re already more than 30% above that record from less than two weeks ago. And climbing.

It’s not easy to determine how high the numbers will go.

“Unfortunately we don’t have a crystal ball,” said Melissa Nolan, an infectious disease expert and professor at the University of South Carolina. “We do have a portion of the population with prior exposure, so that should help mitigate and slow transmission compared to March when everyone was vulnerable to infection.”

Nolan warned, however, that respiratory infections routinely are worse in the winter as people gather indoors. Forced-air and other types of home heating can dry out the inside air and thus the respiratory tract lining, making people more susceptible to infection, she said.

Ogbonnaya Omenka, an associate professor and public health specialist at Butler University, noted that the record-breaking data coincides with increased political and other activities in recent weeks amid eased restrictions in some states. It’s not

clear how each state will react to the rising numbers, he said.

“It is difficult to predict the expected ceiling for this spike in cases,” Omenka said. “However, at this rate, it is within reason to expect it to stretch into the coming weeks.”

Carroll said too little has been done during the summer months to put in place the widespread testing and contact tracing needed to tamp down a cold season surge.

Four NFL teams closed their practice facilities Thursday and at least four college football games scheduled for this weekend were shelved.

Preparation could have allowed for targeted closures and isolation of the virus as opposed to the “blunt instrument of community-wide shutdowns,” he said.

Carroll blamed a “continued failure in leadership” that ignored opportunities to bring

the virus under control.

The United States has reported more than 9.4 million cases and more than 233,000 deaths.

“As it stands, we’re no better prepared than the spring, meaning widespread closures and shutdowns as we are witnessing in Europe are inevitable,” Carroll told USA TODAY. “This is tragic situation. People are and should be outraged.”

New seven-day case records were set Wednesday in Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Record numbers of deaths were reported in Idaho, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Wyoming.

The trend is ominous. Forty-four states had more cases in the latest week than in the week before, an analysis of Johns Hopkins University data shows.

Thirty-nine states had a higher rate of people testing positive than the week before, an analysis of COVID Tracking Project data shows.

Eta could hit Florida next week as a tropical storm

Doyle Rice
USA TODAY

Tropical Depression Eta is on track to strengthen again into a tropical storm and head toward Cuba and Florida over the weekend and into early next week.

The storm, which was still drenching Central America on Thursday, continues to keep much of South Florida in its path. The National Weather Service in Miami warned residents an extended period of heavy rain and gusty winds was possible for portions of the area by the weekend.

Tropical-storm-force winds of 40 to 60 mph were likely to arrive in the Florida Keys as early as Saturday night. The strong winds will then spread north over the southern part of the Florida Peninsula on Sunday and Sunday night, according to AccuWeather.

There is a chance the storm could reach hurricane strength as it moves across the Caribbean, forecasters said. If Eta hits the U.S., it would be the 12th named storm to make landfall this year, an all-time record.

Floods and landslides from the storm have killed at least 13 people and damaged hundreds of homes in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. The storm that hit Nicaragua as a Category 4 hurricane on Tuesday had become more of a vast tropical rainstorm, but it was advancing so slowly and dumping so much rain that much of Central America remained on high alert.

Contributing: Cheryl McCloud, The Fort-Myers News-Press; The Associated Press



Damage caused by Eta in Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua. INTI OCON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

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OPINION

Make mail voting available to all

It saves money and drives up turnout

Michael P. McDonald

Let’s take a moment to celebrate the voters and election officials who pulled off a triumph of civic participation in modern American politics.

About 160 million people voted in the 2020 general election. This is the highest number of voters in any U.S. election. There is uncertainty in the final turnout number because there are still ballots left to be counted, but it is clear that America experienced record levels of voter engagement.

Two-thirds of the Americans eligible to vote participated, which is the highest turnout rate since 1900. To underscore the historic nature of what we just witnessed, consider that no living person voted in that election.

Why did this happen? One reason is that in these highly polarized times, people believe elections matter. The Gallup polling organization reported a record level of people saying that the election matters more than in previous years. An old curse is “may you live in interesting times.” The coronavirus pandemic, social justice, the economy, immigration, health care, the environment. These are among the many major issues facing the country.

Trump is a turnout machine

And then, of course, there is President Donald Trump himself. Love him or hate him, he inflames passion like no other politician, and people wanted to have a say in whether he should continue to be president.

How did this happen? Election officials deserve credit for managing unprecedented turnout in the midst of a pandemic. When the pandemic is over, give one a hug. The American people did their part, too. Aided by most states that relaxed their mail balloting laws, voters cast a record number of 65 million mail ballots.

There were concerns that election officials would be overwhelmed by a deluge of ballots delivered close to Election Day (and that the U.S. Postal Service would fail to deliver these ballots). Voters assisted election officials and themselves by returning their mail ballots earlier, allowing election officials to better manage the flow of ballots through their offices.

Over 100 million early voters

Voters wanted to participate. Where in-person early voting options were available, people showed up to vote. In some cases, they determinedly stood in lines for up to 11 hours. This was the biggest blemish on the election, as officials were unprepared for so many in-person early voters. Despite this, in-person early voting shattered records, too, running about twice the 2016 levels.

In sum, more than 100 million people cast their ballots by mail or early in person, over 60% of all votes cast. Yet more records.

What does this mean for future elections in America?

Several states held all-mail ballot elections on an emergency basis in 2020 (with some in-person voting op-

tions for those who need or want to vote this way). All-mail elections are cheaper to run than traditional polling place elections because they don’t require as many polling places, expensive voting machines or poll workers. Voters in the Western states that have held all-mail elections for a while like this method of voting, too. Now that more people have been exposed to mail balloting, we are likely to see it used widely in the future.

If we are to expand mail balloting, but stop short of all-mail ballot elections, states that temporarily expanded mail balloting for the pandemic emergency need to revisit antiquated laws designed when there were fewer mail voters. States that have been conducting mail ballot elections for a while provide some best practices:

- Enable people to vote by mail. If a state does not already permit any registered voter to request a mail ballot, enshrine this in law. I’d further allow voters to permanently receive a mail ballot, instead of repeatedly being required to request them.

- Make it easier for election officials to manage mail ballots by allowing them more time before Election Day to process ballots that arrive at their offices. This will increase the speed of election result reporting, and allow election officials more time to contact voters who have problems with their ballots.

- Make the return of ballots more convenient. Have more drop boxes where voters can return their ballots. This will help people avoid being disenfranchised by post office delays.

- As a cost-saving measure, do away with an inner envelope, if a state requires it. They are unnecessary and they confuse people, leading to more rejected “naked” ballots when voters forget to put their ballot inside an envelope, and inside another envelope.

Philanthropy is not enough

These recommendations are not without costs, and many state and local governments underfund elections in favor of critical government infrastructure that people need on a daily basis. But elections are critical, too. We cannot rely on philanthropic donations, as many wealthy people made during this election. Federal, state and local resources are welcome to make these changes. And really, if you’re serious about costs, all-mail ballot elections are the cheapest way to run elections.

Are we in for an extended period of higher turnout?

Among our founding principles is that the government is responsive to the will of the citizens, as expressed through elections. High turnout is a sign of a healthy democracy. In recent elections, the United States was near the higher end of the turnout trading range over the past century even before 2020. It seems likely that we’ll remain there, at least until the major issues driving wedges between Americans are resolved.

Michael P. McDonald, an associate political science professor at the University of Florida, runs the U.S. Elections Project.



MIKE THOMPSON/USA TODAY NETWORK

Trump’s massive vote total breaks my heart

Even divide between our better and worse angels

Michael J. Stern

This is going to be a scorched-earth column, so buckle up.

Yes, former Vice President Joe Biden might squeak out a victory. But even if he does, we’ve been slapped with the heartbreaking reality that nearly half our country voted to reelect President Donald Trump after spending four years watching him spew unbridled bigotry, engage in blatant corruption, and tell so many lies you’d need a magnifying glass to read The Washington Post’s running list of false and misleading claims.

My best friend just called in disgust to say he did not recognize this country. Unfortunately, I do. It’s the same country that built itself largely on the backs of slaves whose most basic rights were stolen and whose descendants, more than 150 years after emancipation, still carry the weight of the chains that held them down.

It’s the same country that closed its eyes to Matthew Shepard, beaten and broken and tied to a fence in rural Wyoming, where he was left to die ... because he was gay.

And it’s the same country where you can see countless cellphone videos of people telling Latino Americans to speak English or “stay in Mexico” or “go back” to where they came from.

True, slightly more than half the country voted to repudiate Trump. But that’s little consolation because many of those who chose Trump did not do so out of a simple difference of political opinion on which reasonable minds can differ. We can tease out each strand of the strangle knot, but in the end this election was a contest between our better and worse angels.

We were always imperfect but America was great, in part, because of what we aspired to be: “Land of the Free,” where hard work and equality meant everyone had a shot at earning a piece of the pie. We were born a mosaic of diversity and we celebrated it.

Buying the bigotry

That’s not what some in Trump’s America want to see when they look through the window of history. They want to see their own reflection. And despite his success leading a 68 million-person chorus of “Make America Great Again,” it’s just a TV jingle.

None of the policies enacted under the Trump-branded theme song has done anything to actually make America great. Tax cuts for the wealthiest, fighting the promise of universal health care, lethal mismanagement of a pandemic, use of the Justice Department for political gain, a personal financial windfall — these are the cornerstones of a presidency best characterized by golf and failure. While half of us were repelled, the other half voted for more.

People need to stop acting perplexed about how the polls could be so wrong — how they could show Biden up by 7 points in Michigan and still end up with a race almost evenly split. I never again want to hear the phrase “margin of error.” Trump knows what happened and most of us do, too, if we’re willing to say it out loud.

A lot of people are buying the bigotry and division Trump is selling — they just don’t want their family and friends to know it, so they don’t tell the pollsters. They’re scarfing down a Big Mac in their car, in the dark corner of a McDonald’s parking lot, before heading home and pretending to enjoy a plate of baked chicken and broccoli.

Perhaps the most dangerous implication of this election is the willingness of millions of Americans to reject unpleasant realities and accept a fictitious world created by an autocrat and marketed by co-conspirator Fox News. They don’t want to believe that almost a quarter-million people just like them could be alive one minute and body bagged the next.

And so, they choose to believe Trump’s “rounding the corner” announcement claiming he has conquered the COVID-19 pandemic even as the infection rate is hitting record highs — even as my partner called me two hours ago to say he’s got a fever, has been vomiting and is too sick to stay at the hospital where he works.

Trump ugliness here to stay

If things weren’t bad enough, Trump pronounced Tuesday night that he had won the election and demanded an end to vote counting in states where he is ahead, while simultaneously insisting that the count continue in states where he is trailing. The president then threatened to take his plan to steal the election to the Supreme Court, where he appointed a third of the judges and expects a warm reception. He has already filed lawsuits in Michigan and Pennsylvania (to stop the vote count), demanded a recount in Wisconsin and “claimed” to have won several states before they were decided.

I can’t believe we’re here again. I can’t believe that nearly half my fellow Americans tried to reelect a man so singularly focused on satisfying himself, he’d bite his mother’s breast if sweeter milk caught his eye.

When all is said and done, Trump may be defeated in a close call. But I fear Trumpism, and the ugliness it reflects, is here to stay.

Michael J. Stern, a member of USA TODAY’s Board of Contributors, was a federal prosecutor for 25 years in Detroit and Los Angeles.

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YOUR SAY

Trump’s behavior is un-American

LETTERS
LETTERS@USATODAY.COM

President Donald Trump’s request to halt the vote count in Michigan and recount the ballots in Wisconsin sounds like a desperate football coach demanding a game be halted late in the fourth quarter, and then requesting that the second quarter be replayed.

Registrars of voters and football referees are guided by rules set down by the states or, in the case of football, the

National Football League.

Because everyone knew how each state would count its votes months ago, I am not for throwing a penalty flag against Team Trump.

No, I’m suggesting that its total disregard for the principles of democracy force an immediate end of its game due to unsportsmanlike (in other words un-American) conduct.

Denny Freidenrich
Laguna Beach, Calif.



PHOENIX
SUNDAY 3^{ET}



MONEYLINE

MARKET RALLIES AS STOCKS RIDE POST-ELECTION WAVE

Stocks rallied again on Wall Street as a post-election wave of buying continues, keeping the S&P 500 on track for its biggest weekly gain since April. Even with the presidential election not yet called, investors are banking on control of Congress remaining split between Democrats and Republicans, which could mean the continuation of low tax rates and other business-friendly policies. Tech stocks helped lead the way amid rising expectations that a split Congress would not be as aggressive about targeting Big Tech for antitrust issues. The S&P 500 rose 1.9% Thursday, bringing its gain for the week to 7.4%.

FED SIGNALS READINESS TO DO MORE FOR ECONOMY

The Federal Reserve kept its benchmark interest rate at a record low near zero Thursday and signaled its readiness to do more if needed to support an economy under threat from a worsening coronavirus pandemic. The Fed announced no new actions after its latest policy meeting but left the door open to provide further assistance in the coming months. The central bank again pledged to use its "full range of tools to support the U.S. economy in this challenging time."



AP

US LONG-TERM MORTGAGE RATES FLAT TO LOWER; 30-YEAR AT 2.78%

U.S. long-term mortgage rates were flat to lower this week, as the key 30-year rate fell to a new all-time low for the 12th time this year. The background of economic anxiety in the recession set off by the pandemic, which has depressed home loan rates through the year, was amplified in the past week by uncertainty over the presidential election.

Dow Jones Industrial Avg.



AP

THURSDAY MARKETS

INDEX	CLOSE	CHG
Dow Jones Industrial Avg.	28,390.18	▲ 542.52
S&P 500	3,510.45	▲ 67.01
Nasdaq composite	11,890.93	▲ 300.15
T-note, 10-year yield	0.771	▲ 0.002

SOURCES: USA TODAY RESEARCH, BLOOMBERG

USA TODAY SNAPSHOTS®

Gas Prices

Per gallon of regular unleaded.

Yesterday Avg.	\$2.117
Wednesday Avg.	\$2.119
Week Ago Avg.	\$2.147
Month Ago Avg.	\$2.186
Year Ago Avg.	\$2.612



AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION



Roselyne Dorval is an alternative medicine consultant in Naples, Fla. COURTESY OF ROSELYN DORVAL

How voters graded social media on this year's election

Platforms promised to restrict false claims

Jessica Guynn and Josh Peter
USA TODAY

The polls were congested on Election Day, but the crowds were teeming somewhere else – on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Americans turned to social media to hunt for news, offer opinions and, well, in some cases insult their presidential candidate of choice.

In anticipation of the big day, the social media platforms pledged to crack down on false claims of victory and other falsehoods.

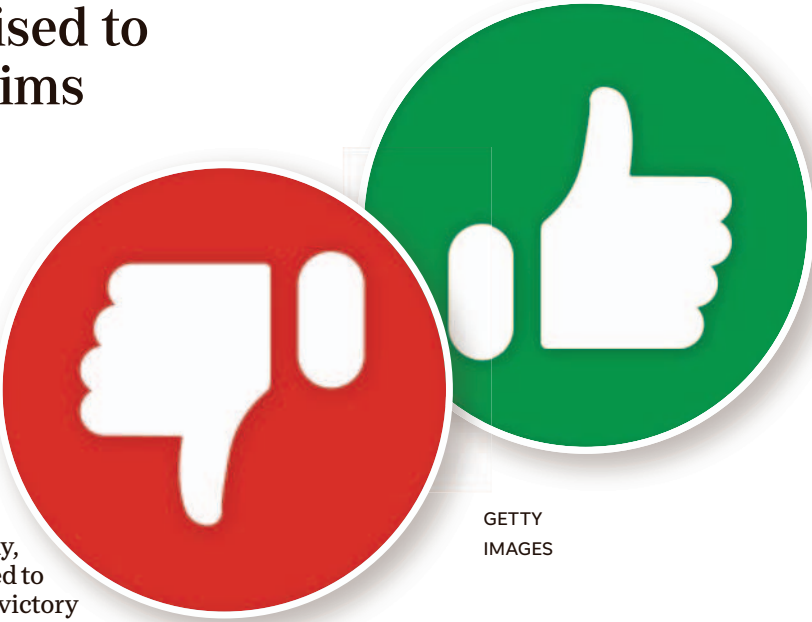
Six voters who talked to USA TODAY kept tabs on it all. Then they graded social media on its Election Day performance. This is their report card.

Gerald Wickline, retired, Facebook D-

Gerald Wickline, 78, a retired Republican in Wimauma, Florida, wasn't always a Trump supporter. He thought Trump was too brash and outspoken and supported Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas instead. But midway through the 2016 GOP primary, Trump won him over.

"It became more apparent he was running as an outsider, not as a politician," Wickline says.

Four years later, Wickline believes the outsider candidate has transformed into the bold leader this country needs to rebuild the U.S. economy



GETTY IMAGES

and quickly recover from a global pandemic.

As votes are being counted in key battleground states, Wickline is terrified socialism will quickly spread to health care and education should Democratic challenger Joe Biden prevail.

Which is why Facebook's treatment of Trump angers Wickline. That frustration only intensified as social media platforms throttled New York Post coverage of Hunter Biden's business dealings and flagged the president's tweets on Election Day and the day after.

Wickline says those actions smack of the long-standing bias by social media companies that have silenced conservative voices and viewpoints to tip the election to Democrats, much like the

See SOCIAL MEDIA, Page 2B

New video games to set sales records

Perfect stay-at-home pastime amid coronavirus pandemic

Mike Snider
USA TODAY

Video games are playing a big part in helping people cope during the coronavirus pandemic.

Since earlier this spring with the onset of stay-at-home orders meant to stem the spread of COVID-19, more Americans have pressed play on video games.

For some, games are an entertaining way to pass the time not spent on other pursuits. Others use them to stay connected with friends they used to see in person – and to bond with family members.



Playing video games is an outlet.
GETTY IMAGES

Xbox Series X

Console has larger library and games load faster.
3B

See VIDEO, Page 2B

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Video

Continued from Page 1B

Jennifer Fidler, 47, and her husband of Portland, Oregon, have been playing “Animal Crossing: New Horizons” with her two middle school-aged daughters since the pandemic led to school closings. They may get another Nintendo Switch soon to expand their options.

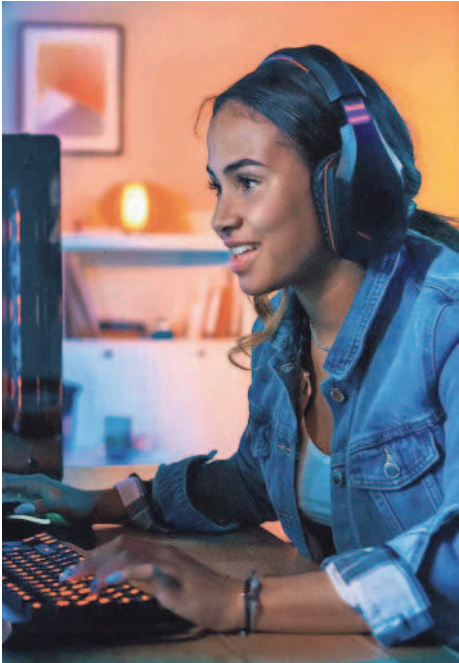
Playing the game, “I am able to connect with my sister in Tennessee and play ‘live’ with her and my nieces,” Fidler said. “It’s something we could all enjoy together in our home. ... It’s a fun game and non-violent – win-win for a mom.”

In Washington state, Chad Aller, 30, and his girlfriend have found games including “Apex Legends” and “Borderlands 3” on the Xbox One “an excellent source of entertainment and stress release” as they stay home to “do our part keeping the pandemic under control,” he said. “They are also cost-efficient, which is a concern right now.”

Brianna Bowers, 16, of Cypress, Texas, is playing more, too, sometimes sneaking in some game time after finishing a school assignment during remote classes.

“Among Us,” in particular, is extremely convenient for these quick bursts of extra time, since it’s right there on my laptop and only takes a few minutes per round. I know many of my other friends have taken up the game, too, and it makes for precious moments of connection with them,” says Bowers, who also plays on Xbox and PlayStation consoles.

In addition to playing online multiplayer games such as “Fortnite” and “Call of Duty: Warzone” with others,



Young lady enjoys playing a video game. GETTY IMAGES

Thomas Mehaffey, 48, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, began streaming his gameplay on Twitch. He says he has been playing “more by far, due to isolating with lung immune problems” to avoid contracting COVID-19.

The number of Americans playing video games has grown to 244 million, which is 30 million more than in 2018, according to The NPD Group’s 2020 Gamer Segmentation Report, which the research firm released in July.

And players are devoting more time to their gaming pursuits, about 14 hours a week, on average, in this year, compared with 12 hours a week in 2018, according to the report, which surveyed 5,000 active gamers in May.

Spending on games from March to August rose 30% or more beyond the same month a year ago, additional NPD research found.

The surge in gaming – and reduced spending on other things such as travel, theme parks and tickets for sports and music events – should lead to spending in November and December of \$13.4 billion, a projection by NPD that’s 24% higher than last year. Total spending in 2020 is projected to reach a new annual record of \$50 billion, NPD says.

“Video games have provided a safe way to get together with family and friends either virtually or at home,” said Mat Piscatella, NPD’s executive director of games. “The social aspect of gaming has now been established with the mass market, and people gathering together this way may be a more permanent behavioral change.”

New Xbox, PlayStation arrive next week

Helping spur interest in games: next week’s arrival of new video game consoles from Microsoft and Sony. Microsoft’s Xbox Series X and Series S consoles arrive on Nov. 10. Sony’s PlayStation 5 and PS5 digital console hit on Nov. 12.

Also on tap: “Call of Duty: Black Ops Cold War,” out Nov. 13, which Piscatella predicts will be the best-selling game of 2020. That’s not a stretch, as the first-person shooter and online multiplayer favorite has been the top-selling gaming franchise in the U.S. for the past 11 years.

Another likely holiday winner is Nintendo, which has seen its 3½-year-old Switch console remain a hot seller and in short stock during the pandemic. The Switch could also be in short supply the rest of 2020, too, Piscatella said in his

holiday outlook, published on NPD’s blog. “The lack of available inventory of new PlayStations and Xbox systems will leave Switch as an appealing available option,” he said.

Landing a new PS5 or Xbox Series X or S may be tough this season, says Pedro Palandrani, research analyst with Global X, an exchange-traded funds investment firm.

But that won’t hamper growth. Global X expects sales for the next 12 months (including October) to be more than 25% higher than the previous year. More than 2 billion worldwide play games, with growth also coming on smartphones, tablets and personal computers, Palandrani says.

“We see more than just COVID-induced momentum,” he said. “For many, video games also became their new social media outlets. As video games continue to expand their audience and add additional features, it is emerging as potentially the next generation of the internet; a metaverse filled with millions of users interacting in a truly life-like virtual reality.”

That idea of a VR world can help some cope with the real world. Games have been a good way to socialize with friends daily as he stays home more, says Connor Gorman, 25, of Brooklyn Park, Minn.

The project engineer at a software company plays multiplayer games such as “Rogue Company” on his PlayStation 4 and “Animal Crossing” on his Nintendo Switch, plus the online flying game “Ace Combat 7” and cooperative horror game “Phasmophobia” on his PC.

He’s in the market for a PlayStation 5. The selling point for video games?

“The social aspect of them,” Gorman said, “and also they help to relieve stress and anxiety.”

Social media

Continued from Page 1B

mainstream media.

“The social media and the media have stolen this election from Donald Trump,” Wickline told USA TODAY. “I just think social media has not been fair throughout this election.”

Wickline says partisanship in how social media companies moderate content extends to his own Facebook account.

“I see social media as a good thing as long as the owners of the company do not control your thought process,” he said. “I have had a couple of posts where I expressed an opinion and it was called false. Well, if it’s my opinion, it’s my opinion. They may not agree with my opinion, but they have no right to say it’s false.”

For example, Facebook attached a fact-checking label to a repost of his: “In my opinion, BLM is a terrorist organization.”

“Guess they haven’t watched the riots or were tuned in to CNN where they were calling the outings mostly peaceful while blocks of fires burned in the background,” Wickline said. “If CNN had reported Pearl Harbor, they would have called it a mostly peaceful fly over.”

Diane Seligmann, Facebook C-, Twitter B+

Diane Seligmann, 68, is a retired information technology engineer in the communications industry and grandmother from Louisville, Kentucky. She’s also a registered Democrat – and former registered Republican – who cast her vote for Biden.

Even before Trump ran for president, Seligmann was horrified that he would not apologize for his harsh comments in 1989 about the Central Park Five, five Black and Latino teenagers wrongly convicted of the rape of a jogger in New York City.

“His calling for them to be put to death, I didn’t like it because it was not fair,” said Seligmann, who was born in Hungary and emigrated to the United States with her husband, an Air Force pilot whom she met in Germany. She became a U.S. citizen in 1967.

Trump’s actions while in office have only cemented Seligmann’s feelings, especially now that the COVID-19 pandemic has ravaged the country.

As a military wife, she says she met several presidents from both parties. Her husband flew Air Force One for Ronald Reagan. She is now widowed.

“Everyone including Clinton were gentlemen. They had manners,” she said. “There was a standard for presidents to be held to. Trump doesn’t meet this standard, in my opinion.”

“He makes me so mad because this country is so wonderful and he is trying to ruin it,” she said. “I said my vote counts and every vote counts, and I cannot vote for this person.”

Even before election night, Seligmann says she worried Trump would declare victory before all the votes were counted and that Facebook would do too little to restrain him.

“Honestly, I am so disappointed about Facebook,” she says. “Mark Zuckerberg spent so much time sucking up to Trump that the truth got lost. Zuckerberg has been too worried about appeasing Trump, he hasn’t stepped up to the plate on fact-checking.”

She says she prefers Twitter, which made significant changes months ago to truth squad the election.

“They are standing up to Trump,” Seligmann said. “Facebook is not doing it.”

Brandon Sykes, college student, Twitter B

Brandon Sykes, a 21-year-old college student who voted by absentee ballot for Biden, said he is not a fan of television news.

“I’m not saying Twitter is as good as the news, but you can get a decent amount of information,” he said. “The news is, like, sad to me. So Twitter, at least it mixes in some laughs and stuff.”

A senior at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Sykes said he started the day with a 90-minute exam on electromagnetic field theory. Then he logged on to social media – Twitter and Instagram – and monitored it regularly for the next six hours.

The verdict: He said would give social media a grade B for how it performed on Election Day.

“Twitter was crazy,” Sykes said, adding that Instagram was tamer. “I just saw a whole bunch of people arguing, Trump or Biden, and I just feel like people are very divisive right now.

“I feel like information regarding the election, they did a good job. Because they had headlines and you could see where people tweeted about a certain topic underneath the headline.”

But people using Twitter accounts without photos were “trying put their propaganda, their agenda out there,” Sykes said.

On giving social media a grade of B, Sykes offered some additional thoughts.

“For me, I just go on Twitter for entertainment,” he said. “But today, I really went on to see if they had some of the early polls and maps out already. But I saw some back-and-forth from opposite sides, and I saw a few (reports) of voter suppression.”

Dave Kelman, radio host, Facebook B

Dave Kelman of Las Vegas said he was playing things safe with social media on Tuesday. For example, he did not post a story about 8-year-old children at a Pennsylvania school allegedly filling out election ballots.

“I share that story, then I run the risk



Kelman

of getting banned on Facebook, whether it’s for a few days or losing my account,” he said.

Kelman, 48, said he has to watch his step because last week Facebook shut down his anti-mask “Bare Face Is Legal” group for violating “Community Standards,” according to Facebook communication reviewed by USA TODAY.

Now Kelman is operating a new version of the Facebook group, “Bare Face Is Legal 2.0,” and on Tuesday afternoon offered a preliminary grade for Facebook’s performance on Election Day.

“Well, I haven’t seen them ban anybody yet, so I’m going to give them a B right now,” he said.

But Kelman, who said he voted for Trump and “all red all the way,” pointed out that social media was cracking down.

For instance, Kelman shared a story about Twitter blocking retweets about a man in Erie County, Pennsylvania, claiming to be an election worker who was throwing away ballots for President Donald Trump. PolitiFact reported that officials in Erie County “have debunked a viral social media claim alleging that a poll worker tossed more than 100 ballots cast for” Trump.

Kelman said he considers Facebook “my job” because he runs “Bare Face Is Legal 2.0” and “Bare Foot Is Legal,” a group devoted to the freedom of going shoeless and sockless in public. He also hosts a nightly, three-hour show on Freedomizer radio, his online radio network, and said he manages to spend about 90 minutes a day on Twitter.

“I’m more comfortable on Facebook than I am on Twitter even though what’s happened to me on Facebook,” he said. “I’m still scared because I’ve been in Twitter jail before simply for sharing a post the president made.”

Kelman explained that Twitter banned him for three days after he tweeted a story of Trump talking about hydroxychloroquine, a drug the president has touted as a coronavirus treatment despite Food and Drug Administration warnings about its effectiveness.

Beth Anne Cox, polling site volunteer, Facebook/Instagram A

From 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Beth Anne Cox of Winona Lake, Indiana, volunteered at a nearby polling site and also found time to monitor social media.

“I was logged in on Facebook and my phone was lying on the table in front of me,” said Cox, 60.

“I (checked) it whenever I was not actively working with a voter because I wanted to see what was going on. I wanted to have some sense of what was happening outside.”

Inside, Cox said, she was among the women wearing Converse sneakers and

pearls – in tribute to Kamala Harris, running mate of former Vice President Joe Biden.

Inside the polling site in north Indiana, Cox said she saw a 92-year-old woman vote for the first time and other joyful moments. But to keep tabs on the election, Cox relied on Facebook and Instagram.

“I would say both of them got pretty high marks,” she said. “I was seeing like grade-A behavior, and I wasn’t expecting that. So it was very nice”

It was an uplifting experience during a difficult year for Cox, who said she and her husband lost their jobs because of the COVID-19 pandemic. They have been supplementing minimum-wage work with her husband’s 401(k), according to Cox.

But on Election Day, Cox said, she left the polling site feeling upbeat and gave social media high marks.

“Because most of what I was seeing was encouragement or excitement rather than the antagonistic stuff I had seen for the last couple of weeks,” Cox said. “Now what it will be like tomorrow, I don’t know. Because the votes are coming in and once they’re certified, it could get ugly.

“But today it was nice.”

Roselyne Dorval, alternative medicine consultant, Facebook C

Roselyne Dorval, a 33-year-old alternative medicine consultant and a Trump supporter in Naples, Florida, said she’d been active on Facebook leading up to Election Day.

“I am a Black woman, so a lot of people don’t expect me to be on the party side that I am,” she said. “And I’m always educating people why I chose to be on this side and why I walked away (from the Democratic party). So I was doing a lot of that, leading up to the election.”

But on Tuesday, Dorval said, she took a more passive role – visiting other people’s Facebook pages rather than posting on her own – in part because she anticipated heavy-handed censorship. At about midnight, however, she said she was surprised by her day online.

“I would say that I would give Facebook a C today, and normally I would give them an F because they censor a lot, they block a lot,” Dorval said. “They’re fact-checking in the most ridiculous ways. I didn’t see that too much today because I didn’t see that many political posts.”

Dorval expressed suspicion, too. “It could have been that people weren’t posting as much,” she said. “Or it could have been that those political posts...were being censored.” Censorship, Dorval said, should concern all Americans, whether they support Trump or Biden. “Anyone, no matter what party line you’re on, you should be extremely worried, you should be bothered, by the amount of censorship that is happening on social media, all platforms,” she said. “Specifically on Facebook because that’s where I am primarily.”

TECH

Is Xbox Series X worth the money?

Bigger game library and faster launches arrive

Brett Molina and Mike Snider
USA TODAY

With the launch of the Xbox Series X and S, it's not so much about better video game graphics as it is about making your life as a console game player better.

Yes, Microsoft's latest consoles, available Nov. 10, feature video games that will look better than its predecessors. But having spent time with the Xbox Series X (\$499.99), the more exciting perks not only involve access to a larger library of games available to play, but spending less time waiting for those games to launch and load.

Console launches have typically focused on the graphical leaps made between generations, as video games shifted closer to realistic high-resolution visuals. But with the arrivals of Xbox Series X and S, and Sony's PlayStation 5, out Nov. 12, graphics are taking a backseat at launch in favor of changes that attempt to remove the hassles of console gaming.

For the Xbox Series X, it starts with the setup. Users are advised to perform the setup process on their smartphones using the Xbox app, which provides a much smoother, easier transition. No more trying to awkwardly type an email address and password with a video game controller. As the console installs the appropriate updates, you'll log in to your Xbox Live account through the phone and adjust your settings.

The device itself is a bit more compact than the Xbox One, boasting a 3D rectangular shape. Although most images show the new Xbox standing vertically, the console sits just as comfortably in a horizontal position. It's also super quiet.

Xbox: How it saves you time

One of the immediate changes you



From left, the Xbox Series X and Xbox Series S. MICROSOFT

might notice while playing on a Series X is how quickly games load. Some titles available from Xbox One have been optimized for the Series X and S, introducing significantly faster load times. In a title like the racing game "Forza Horizon 4," for example, it only takes a few seconds for players to wait for the game to load before you're out on the road racing. But even on games that aren't optimized, you're spending a lot less time sitting and more time actually enjoying your games.

Xbox Series X expands this further with Quick Resume, which allows players to quickly transition between games while skipping loading or title screens. You can start in the middle of one game, and seamlessly switch to another with very little wait time. Between this and shorter load times, it's clear the Series X is a major upgrade. Games on Series X show some subtle visual improvements compared to an Xbox One X, the latest model of Xbox One. In the action game "Gears 5," you clearly see sharper detail in backgrounds and gunfire clearly blazing across your screen, or palm trees in pirate adventure "Sea of Thieves" appear more lush.

Xbox Series X: Support for older gear

The other key benefit to Series X is

unlike previous generations of video game consoles, there is far more support for earlier games and accessories. Xbox One controllers and other accessories work on the Series X, and most games from the Xbox One and even the Xbox 360 and original Xbox are compatible.

Plenty of newer games will also appear on the new Xbox, such as "Assassin's Creed Valhalla," "Madden NFL 21," "Marvel's Avengers" and "Yakuza: Like a Dragon."

The Xbox controller holds true to its form, with some minor but useful tweaks.

The grips on the controller are more textured, making it easier to hold. The triggers and top buttons are also textured with tactile dots for an improved feel. Microsoft also borrows from its Xbox Elite controller with the addition of a directional pad offering more precise control.

The controller also supports Bluetooth and includes a Share button for uploading screenshots or video clips.

Xbox console: What about the Series S

There's also the Xbox Series S, a smaller model that ditches the Blu-ray disc drive and costs \$200 less. It also packs slightly less power compared to

the Series X, and less internal storage for downloading games (512 GB vs. 1 TB on the Series X).

About 60% smaller than the Xbox Series X, the Series S is about the size of a big novel, say a Harry Potter book, or a David McCullough biography. It weighs just more than 4 pounds.

The Series S sets up smoothly, just like its larger sibling.

And quickly allows you to download games from your previous Xbox system and the Xbox Game Pass subscription service.

However, if you download many games – for instance, Halo: The Master Chief Collection, which includes six classic Halo games – you can quickly find yourself running short of storage. (we had filled 84.5% of the hard drive – which devotes 364 Gigabytes to games, according to our test drive – and hadn't downloaded any apps yet.)

If you are a gamer who wants a large library on hand, you can plug in a Seagate 1 Terabyte Storage Expansion Card (\$219.99) into the back of the system (it works for Series X, too) and games stored on that will load faster than on previous systems.

Next-gen gaming: a different upgrade

In some ways, moving to the Xbox Series X felt like upgrading your smartphone. You get a device at launch that operates more nimbly and helps your games run more efficiently, and you maintain a familiar user experience, as the interface remains very similar to Xbox One.

And you're not starting over with brand-new games or apps.

However, there's no immediate experience on the Series X pointing to what "next-gen" gaming looks like.

Of course, those experiences will come soon as developers start to push the technical capabilities for the Series X.

For now, it's a joy just spending less time loading my games.

Preorders begin Friday for second iPhones wave



Talking Tech
Jefferson Graham
USA TODAY

The world's largest iPhone goes on sale Friday for preorder customers, and if you're thinking, wait a minute, didn't the new iPhones go on sale in October, you didn't read the fine print.

Two of the four new iPhones, the iPhone 12 and iPhone 12 Pro, were, indeed, released last month. But Apple may have kept the best for last, in terms of the phone that photographers are drooling over. That model is the iPhone 12 Pro Max.

Preorders for that phone – and the fourth one – the mini, open at 8 a.m. EST Friday, but will be available at stores on Friday, Nov. 13.

Meanwhile, many big-ticket tech items are also being prepared for launch.

Apple's HomePod Mini, which looks to take on Amazon's Echo and Google's Nest Audio speakers with Apple's first consumer priced \$99 speaker, also goes on presale Friday for release on the 16th.

And the battle of the newest video game units is slated for next week as well, but good luck finding them. Sony's PlayStation 5 (starting at \$399) is on for Tuesday, Nov. 10 while Microsoft's Xbox Series X (\$499) is set for Thursday, Nov. 12. Both are sold out in presales, but stores in desperate need of customers could surprise fans with devices in stock next week.

Of the new phones:

The iPhone 12 Mini is a pint-size version, with a 5.4-inch screen for those concerned that iPhones have gotten too big. (It also has the lowest price of the new 12 line, starting at \$699.)

On the other side of the spectrum, the iPhone 12 Pro Max sports a 6.7-inch screen, setting a new record for iPhone sizes. The iPhone 12 and 12 Pro models have 6.1-inch screens.

But beyond the heft for the iPhone 12 Pro Max are the new camera features that have pros drooling.



Apple's new iPhones APPLE INC.

"It's great," DPREview said of the iPhone 12, "but the Max should be even better."

Specifically, Apple promises a 47% larger image sensor and large pixels, too, meaning higher resolution photos, an advanced image stabilizer to help steady shots and a more advanced telephoto lens.

The focal length is 65mm, up from the 52mm offering on the other iPhones with an advanced "telephoto" offering. Many pros use a 24mm-70mm zoom lens on their digital single-lens reflex and mirrorless cameras to cover events, and with the three lenses on the iPhone, the ultrawide kicks in at around 20mm, meaning a little iPhone is equaling what many photographers spend \$1,000 to \$2,500 on for their accessory go-to lens.

Meanwhile, there are only two more newly announced major fall tech products left. Google's Pixel 4a (5G), a \$499 version of a phone initially released in the summer, which connects to the new 5G wireless networks, is slated for Nov. 19.

And Amazon's third-generation Echo Show 10, which features a rotating chassis that moves when video chatters spread out across the room, is still listed as "coming soon," on Amazon's website. The unit will sell for \$249.

Finally, Apple is slated Tuesday to unveil new MacBook laptops that will be powered by the same Apple-made processor chips that it uses to power iPhones and iPads. But no word yet on a release date.

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MARKET PERFORMANCE BY SECTOR

Sector	Close	Chg.	4wk ¹	YTD ¹
Technology	121.15	+3.65	+2.3%	+32.2%
Consumer discret.	153.22	+2.93	+0.9%	+22.2%
Telecom	71.93	+1.52	+7.0%	+17.1%
Materials	67.83	+2.66	+2.8%	+10.4%
Health care	109.88	+0.22	+2.3%	+7.9%
Consumer staples	64.79	+0.47	-0.7%	+2.9%
Industrials	81.26	+1.87	+1.1%	-0.3%
Utilities	64.27	+0.57	+1.2%	-0.5%
Financials	25.16	+0.60	-0.2%	-18.3%
Energy	29.57	...	-5.5%	-50.7%

MARKET NOTEBOOK

Issues	NYSE	NASDAQ
Advancing	2,096	2,420
Declining	459	701
Unchanged	51	152
Total	2,606	3,273
Issues at		202
New 52 Week High	134	23
New 52 Week Low	7	
Share Volume		
Total	4,120,924,541	3,685,896,240
Advancing	3,442,204,411	2,951,950,011
Declining	652,066,121	699,991,557
Unchanged	26,654,009	33,954,672

TOP 10 EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS

ETF, ranked by volume	Ticker	Close	Chg.	% Chg	%YTD
ProShs UltPro ShtQQQ	SQQQ	18.90	-1.58	-7.7%	-83.1%
SPDR S&P500 ETF Tr	SPY	350.24	+6.70	+2.0%	+8.8%
iShs Emerg Mkts	EEM	47.71	+0.80	+1.7%	+6.3%
SPDR Financial	XLF	25.16	+0.60	+2.4%	-18.3%
iShares Silver Trust	SLV	23.61	+1.37	+6.2%	+41.5%
iShs iBoxx HY CpBd	HYG	85.53	+0.30	+0.4%	-2.7%
Direx S&P500Bear 3x	SPXS	4.88	-0.32	-6.2%	-63.2%
VanE Vect Gld Miners	GDX	41.22	+2.75	+7.1%	+40.8%
Invesco QQQ Trust	QQQ	294.39	+7.48	+2.6%	+38.5%
ProShs UltraPro QQQ	TQQQ	150.89	+10.81	+7.7%	+74.3%

COMMODITIES

Commodities	Close	Prev.	Chg.	% Chg.	% YTD
Cattle (lb.)	1.08	1.08	unch.	+0.4%	-13.1%
Corn (bushel)	4.09	4.05	+0.04	+1.0%	+5.5%
Gold (troy oz.)	1,945.30	1,894.60	+50.70	+2.7%	+28.0%
Hogs, lean (lb.)	.67	.66	+0.01	+1.6%	-5.6%
Natural Gas (Btu.)	2.94	3.05	-0.11	-3.4%	+34.4%
Oil, heating (gal.)	1.17	1.17	unch.	-0.3%	-42.3%
Oil, lt. swt. crude (bar.)	38.79	39.15	-0.36	-0.9%	-36.5%
Silver (troy oz.)	25.17	23.86	+1.31	+5.5%	+41.2%
Soybeans (bushel)	11.02	10.79	+0.23	+2.1%	+16.8%
Wheat (bushel)	6.09	6.06	+0.03	+0.5%	+9.0%

S&P 500'S BIGGEST GAINERS

Company (ticker)	Price	\$ Chg.	% Chg.	YTD
Albemarle Corp (ALB)	105.50	+12.07	+12.9	+44.4
Qualcomm Inc (QCOM)	145.41	+16.44	+12.7	+64.8
Qorvo Inc (QROV)	146.69	+12.95	+9.7	+26.2
Parker Hanif (PH)	237.98	+20.92	+9.6	+15.6
Perrigo Co plc (PRGO)	45.21	+3.92	+9.5	-12.5

S&P 500'S BIGGEST LOSERS

Company (ticker)	Price	\$ Chg.	% Chg.	YTD
Hanesbrands Inc (HBI)	13.33	-3.04	-18.6	-10.2
Biogen Inc (BIIB)	328.90	-26.73	-7.5	+10.8
Incyte Corp (INCY)	84.65	-6.56	-7.2	-3.1
Paycom Software (PAYC)	373.26	-24.17	-6.1	+41.0
Jack Henry Assoc (JKHY)	153.66	-8.76	-5.4	+5.5

FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Currency per dollar	Close	Prev.	6 mo. ago	Yr. ago
British pound	.7608	.7692	.8031	.7763
Canadian dollar	1.3039	1.3124	1.4025	1.3158
Chinese yuan	6.6064	6.6535	7.0625	7.0097
Euro	.8447	.8529	.9215	.9038
Japanese yen	103.51	104.46	106.50	109.24
Mexican peso	20.7318	20.9729	23.8832	19.2101

FOREIGN MARKETS

Country	Close	Prev.	Change	%Chg.	%YTD
Frankfurt	12,568.09	12,324.22	+243.87	+2.0%	-5.1%
Hong Kong	25,695.92	24,886.14	+809.78	+3.3%	-8.9%
Japan (Nikkei)	24,105.28	23,695.23	+410.05	+1.7%	+1.9%
London	5,906.18	5,883.26	+22.92	+0.4%	-21.7%
Mexico City	38,399.07	37,475.76	+923.31	+2.5%	-11.8%

SOURCE Morningstar, Dow Jones Indexes, The Associated Press

You could get texts from debt collector

Reminder to be result of new rule

Aimee Picchi
Special to USA TODAY

One-third of Americans with a credit report have debt in collections – and they could soon be on the receiving end of texts and emails from collectors eager to track down those overdue payments.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), an agency created after the 2008 financial crisis to protect consumers, has issued a final rule that updates a 43-year-old law that oversees debt collections.

ACA International, the trade association for the debt collection industry, says it's long overdue given that consumers now prefer to communicate via text and email.

But some consumer advocates warn that the rule could result in consumers getting spammed by texts, emails and phone calls from debt collectors at a time when more Americans are under financial stress due to the coronavirus pandemic. The 653-page rule, which has been in development for seven years, limits debt collectors from calling consumers more than 7 times a week for one debt – but advocates say that consumers with multiple overdue debts could end up facing a barrage of phone calls.

The rule also has no limit on the number of texts or emails that debt collectors can send to consumers, says Eamonn Moran, of counsel at Morgan Lewis and a former CFPB counsel.

That could be problematic – and not only for making consumers feel harassed, advocates say. Consumers with expensive texting or data plans could end up facing higher costs if debt collectors deluge them with messages.

“Nobody wants an unwanted communication,” says Linda Jun, senior policy counsel at the nonprofit Americans for Financial Reform. “But lower-income folks, a lot of them are on pay-as-you-text plans, so that’s a major concern if a debt collector gets that number. That is costing that person money, especially money they might not have.”

The CFPB said the rule is needed because it clarifies and updates the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, a law that was passed in 1977 – long before voicemail was commonplace, let alone email or texting.

“Vast changes” have occurred since then, CFPB director Kathleen L. Kraninger said in a statement.

The median overdue debt on Americans’ credit reports stands at \$1,639, according to December data from the Urban Institute. It’s an issue that particularly affects communities of color, where more than 4 of 10 people have a debt in collections, the think tank found.

To be sure, financial stress has mounted since then.

With the pandemic shuttering the economy in the spring and leading to a recession, almost half of U.S. households reported serious financial problems during the outbreak, according to a September study from NPR, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.



Twelve toys were up for induction to the the National Toy Hall of Fame this year. From top left, My Little Pony, Baby Nancy, Lite-Brite, Sorry and Masters of the Universe. From bottom left are Yahtzee, Tamagotchi, Risk, sidewalk chalk, Bingo, Jenga and Breyer Horses. VICTORIA GRAY/THE STRONG NATIONAL MUSEUM OF PLAY

Baby Nancy and Jenga join National Toy Hall of Fame

Marcia Greenwood
Rochester Democrat and Chronicle
USA TODAY

Sidewalk chalk, Baby Nancy and Jenga were inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame Thursday.

The three Class of 2020 entries were chosen from a field of 12 finalists that also included bingo, Breyer Horses, Lite-Brite, Masters of the Universe, My Little Pony, Risk, Sorry!, Tamagotchi and Yahtzee.

“There are few limits to what kids can do with chalk,” noted chief curator Christopher Bensch, who spoke during the 10:30 a.m. ceremony at The Strong National Museum of Play, where the National Toy Hall of Fame is housed in Rochester, New York. “Every sidewalk square, patio and driveway holds the potential for a work of art, a winning game of strategy and cleverness, or a demonstration of physical agility, poise, and balance.”

The second inductee, Baby Nancy, a

doll with a dark complexion and textured hair, was produced in Shindana Toys, a community-owned company that launched in 1968 to make toys reflecting “Black pride, Black talent and most of all, Black enterprise,” according to the Hall of Fame.

The doll was released in Los Angeles that same year and by Thanksgiving became the city’s best-selling Black doll. Before Christmas, Baby Nancy dolls were being sold nationwide. In 1969, Shindana gave the doll an Afro, “challenging white beauty norms and making her the first toy with authentic Black hair,” the museum stated. “The popularity of Baby Nancy exposed a long-standing demand for ethnically correct Black dolls that the mainstream market had failed to deliver previously.”

Curator Michelle Parnett-Dwyer said that although Shindana Toys ceased operations in 1983, “Baby Nancy still stands as a landmark doll that made commercial and cultural breakthroughs.”

Starbucks’ red cups, crafted holiday drinks return Friday

From Staff Reports
USA TODAY

Starbucks red cups and holiday drinks are back starting Friday.

And there’s a way to get a reusable collectible holiday cup Friday for free.

To get the freebie, order any size handcrafted holiday beverage while supplies last.

Handcrafted holiday and fall beverages included are: Caramel Brulee Latte, Chestnut Praline Latte, Eggnog Latte, Hot Chocolate, Peppermint Hot Chocolate, Peppermint Mocha, Pumpkin Cream Cold Brew and Pumpkin Cream Nitro Cold Brew.

More flavors are Pumpkin Spice Latte, Salted Caramel Cream Cold Brew, Salted Caramel Hot Chocolate, Salted Caramel Mocha and Toasted



To get a free reusable collectible holiday cup on Friday, order any size handcrafted holiday beverage while supplies last. STARBUCKS

White Chocolate Mocha.

The drinks can be ordered hot, iced or blended as a Frappuccino.

“Our thought behind the cups this year was about people carrying them out in the world as messengers of joy,” Jeff Wilkson, Starbucks creative director, said in a statement.

“In a way that message deepened as we got further and further into this year. We want to be that beacon for people, a brief moment that they can look forward to.”

Festive food items are also coming, including the new Cranberry Orange Scone, Cranberry Bliss Bar, Sugar Plum Cheese Danish, Snowman Cookie, and Snowman Cake Pop.

It’s that time of year for a seasonal change of beverages.

Dunkin’ brought back its winter seasonal drinks Wednesday which include the Peppermint Mocha Latte and Gingerbread Latte.

Oprah Winfrey reveals her favorite things for 2020

Slightly shorter list includes Telfar, Bychari, more Black-led, Black-owned businesses. **6B**

Take a good look at your wardrobe to save money

With some DIY, you could transform some of your old clothing into trendy fall fashion. **8B**

LIFELINE



Jenee Fleenor, Blake Shelton **AP**

MAKING WAVES TRIBUTE TO DANIELS

The 54th annual CMA Awards kick off next week with a tribute to fiddle-playin' Country Music Hall of Famer Charlie Daniels, who died earlier this year. Hitmakers Jason Aldean, Dierks Bentley, Ashley McBryde, Brothers Osborne and fiddle player Jenee Fleenor — the CMA Awards' defending Musician of the Year — plan to open the show with a musical nod to “The Devil Went Down To Georgia” entertainer, a news release said Thursday. The show, billed as “the first time the biggest names in country music will come together—safely, all in one room” relocates this year from Bridgestone Arena to Music City Center. The program airs Wednesday at 7 p.m. on ABC.



Britain's Prince Charles **AP**

ROYALS REPORT 'BUY ONCE, BUY WELL'

Prince Charles, long admired for his natty wardrobe, opened up to British Vogue in a new interview about his mantra of “Buy once, buy well.” He hates to throw anything away, would rather get something repaired than replaced, and even wore a 36-year-old morning coat to son Prince Harry's wedding to Meghan Markle. Charles is famous for his disdain for waste, especially food waste, for his commitment to conservation and organic food production and for his prodigious charity work. Thus, the interview in the magazine's December issue, aimed at promoting his interests in sustainable fashion, including his new project The Modern Artisans, a textile training program to link Italian design students and students in Scotland to teach high-end fashion and sewing skills.



IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY WHO'S CELEBRATING TODAY

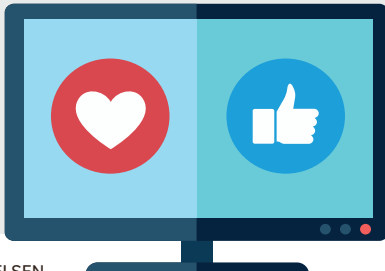
Sally Field is 74. Ethan Hawke is 50. Emma Stone is 32.

USA TODAY SNAPSHOTS®

TV social ratings

Social Content Ratings: Oct. 26–Nov. 1. Original social media posts and engagement related to series and specials.

Show	Interactions (000)
2020 Hip Hop Awards	4,039
WWE Monday Night RAW.....	2,404
WWE Fri. Night SmackDown.....	2,035
This Is Us	1,226
Dancing With the Stars.....	1,221



NIELSEN

STREAMING



“The Endless Trench” stars Antonio de la Torre as a Republican at the start of the Spanish Civil War who hides for more than 30 years. **NETFLIX**

See ‘Christmas Drop,’ ‘Proxima’ this weekend

Brian Truitt **USA TODAY**

New streaming movies are coming to entertain you and your family during socially distanced times. ● This weekend, Netflix keeps the holiday movie train humming, plus debuts Spain's selection to compete for the international film Oscar, Eva Green is a mom going to space, and a few freaky flicks remind us that the horror continues even after Halloween.

If you're feeling the itch to get back to the movies in person, and there's a drive-in or it's safe enough to return to your local theater, the new drama “Let Him Go” teams up Kevin Costner and Diane Lane as a retired sheriff and his wife who, after their son dies, have to rescue their grandson from some shady in-laws.

But if you'd rather stick closer to home, here's a rundown of new movies hitting streaming and on-demand platforms this week, for every cinematic taste:

If you need a feel-good escape this election week: ‘Operation Christmas Drop’

A real-life annual humanitarian mission in the Pacific is the inspiration for this sugary holiday romantic comedy. When her boss needs to make some cuts, Kat Graham is a determined congressional aide sent to a tropical air base – known for dropping goods to needy islanders – to check out its efficiency, and Alex-

ander Ludwig is the good-hearted Air Force captain assigned to show her around and trade barbs. Anybody who's seen a Hallmark movie knows how this'll go, but at least an incoming typhoon and Virginia Madsen as a Scrooge-y congresswoman liven things up.

Where to watch: Netflix

If you dig space movies AND family dramas: ‘Proxima’

In this look at motherhood and parenting through an out-of-this-world lens, Green stars as a French mom and astronaut training at Germany's European Space Agency who's chosen for a year-long Mars mission, but fulfilling her dream also means leaving behind her 7-year-old daughter (Zélie Boulant-Lemesle). Director Alice Winocour's film ably tweaks the usual space tale by having Green's stoic engineer weather all the usual training struggles – and a somewhat sexist Amer-

See SEE, Page 7B



Tamara Lawrance is a British mother-to-be in a bad place in the psychological thriller “Kindred.” **IFC MIDNIGHT**

BOOKS

Susie Yang's ‘White Ivy’ takes you to the edge

Morgan Hines
USA TODAY

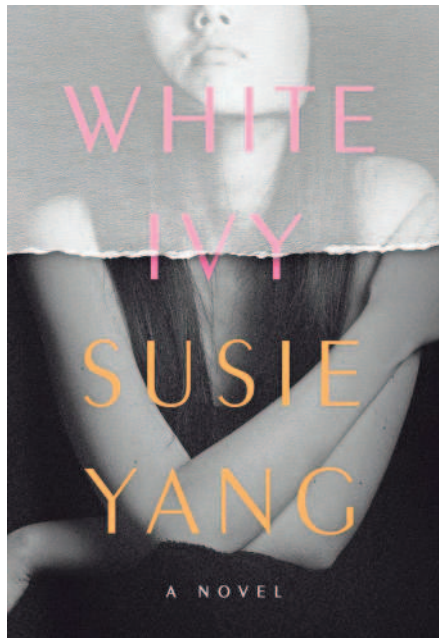
There's nothing better than a novel with an unpredictable plot. And “White Ivy,” Susie Yang's debut novel (Simon & Schuster, 368 pp., ★★★★★ out of four) out this week, is exactly that.

“Ivy Lin was a thief but you would never know it to look at her,” the book begins. Little do readers know, settling in to read, that Ivy Lin is many other things she doesn't appear to be. The question of how far one a person will go to get what she wants is explored in many novels. But how far Ivy will go is another question altogether, as is what she's willing to lose along the way, giving the book the feel of a thriller, but not in the classic sense. It keeps readers on their toes the entire way.

Ivy, a Chinese immigrant, grows up in a low-income neighborhood in a suburb of Boston and attends a school filled with classmates who are everything Ivy is not – trendy, preppy and American. Ivy makes choices that blur right and wrong as she walks the line of assimilating with her peers and dealing with parents who don't typically agree with her attempts to fit in.

In her attempts fit in, Ivy uses tactics learned from her grandmother, Meifeng, who takes advantage of Ivy's innocent looks and trains her to steal goods for Meifeng from Goodwill and tag sales. Eventually, Ivy begins to thief from box stores on her own – coveting items her family won't provide for her such as tampons, disposable razors, Valentine's Day cards, lip gloss and even a diary.

But the trinkets don't satisfy Ivy. The object of her greatest desire isn't



an object at all but a boy: Gideon Speyer. But Gideon, isn't just a boy or a love interest in Ivy's eyes. The preppy son of a senator, Gideon has everything Ivy wants – wealth and an “all-American,” clean-cut image; he's the kind of boy who attends Sunday school and picks daisies for his mother on Mother's Day. Ivy admires Gideon from afar until his birthday party, an event she lies about to attend. In a cruel twist of fate, her fib leads her parents to send her away to China. But Ivy's time in China, during which she is pampered by family, only stokes her desire for wealth and power.

When she returns stateside, her family has moved away – from Boston and from Gideon. Years later, some time after she returns to Massachusetts, Gideon reappears at the forefront of Ivy's world. But only one character in the book seems to truly know Ivy Lin as the reader does. Her best friend from childhood, Roux, though not the object of her aspirational affection, ends up tangled in her story — he becomes a subplot entwined with Ivy's aspirations and one that turns dark.

Just how far Ivy is willing to go to get what she wants may seem unsettling, but Yang's expert character development leads the reader to grapple with Ivy's choices and morality just as much as she does as Ivy pursues the aspirational life she crafted during adolescence.

BUSINESS

Oprah’s favorite things for 2020

Anika Reed
USA TODAY

Though this has been a tumultuous year for many, Oprah Winfrey is giving fans something to look forward to this holiday season: her favorite things list.

The annual list returns for 2020, putting a spotlight on Black-owned businesses. “Black-owned” and “Black-led” business tags denote items ranging from lipstick and blankets to dolls and foods. The list will be featured in the December issue of O, The Oprah Magazine (on newsstands Nov. 17) and at OprahMag.com.

“This year the elves and I have worked overtime in search of fantastic treats for everyone,” Winfrey writes. “And because Black lives – and Black businesses – matter, most of the items are from Black-owned or -led companies.”

With 72 gifts, the list is slightly shorter than last year’s 79 and significantly decreased from 2018’s massive list of 107 items. It features budget picks as well as luxury options, with items priced from \$13 (for aspirational puzzles from Puzzle Huddle) to \$3,500 (for the Samsung television).

We broke the list down to 10 must-have items so you can get a taste of the holidays, Oprah-style.

Telfar medium shopping bag

Dubbed the “Bushwick Birkin” because of its accessible luxury and “It bag” status in New York, these bags have been carried by U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, “Real Housewives of New York” star Sonja Morgan and Solange Knowles. The boxy, vegan leather bags with handles and shoulder straps available in multiple color options are the staple accessory from designer Telfar Clemens, who won the Council of Fashion Designers of America’s American accessories designer award in 2020, and are often sold out, despite frequent restocks. **\$202**

Bychari initial rings

Everyone will want to get their hands



Oprah Winfrey’s annual list of her favorite things has a focus on Black-owned businesses for its 2020 iteration. SIMON YOKOYAMA/O, THE OPRAH MAGAZINE



Trufflin sriracha and ranch VIP set.

– well, technically, fingers – on these personalized stackable rings. If Bychari rings a bell, it’s because Michelle Obama wore the brand during the 2020 Democratic National Convention, where she sported Bychari’s simple gold necklace that spelled “V-O-T-E.” **\$60**

House Dogge fleece dog hoodies

Is there anything more adorable than a puppy wearing a sweater? Rhetorical question – the answer is always no, and Oprah clearly knows that. These fleece dog hoodies from House Dogge will keep



Telfar bag. GREGOR HALENDA PHOTOS

your furry friend warm and stylish on those crisp walks as winter approaches. **\$75**

E Marie Travel blanket sets

Snuggling up on the couch (because where else are we going to go?) just got even cozier with these E Marie Travel blankets. Both the Big Boss and ribbed travel sets recommended by Winfrey come with an accompanying eye mask, perfect for a quick nap. **\$98 to \$148 per set**

Samsung Terrace TV

Another staple for couch living is this

luxé television, which can function both indoors and outdoors. The TV is designed to withstand all types of weather, including rain, snow and extreme heat, making it durable enough for open-air movie nights. **\$3,500**

Yedi air fryer

Cooking at home has become more of a necessity for many families during the pandemic. This air fryer promises to do it all and make the process a little easier, from frying chicken in a healthier way to baking a cake. **\$150**

Judy ‘The Safe’ kit

If 2020 has shown us anything, it’s that pretty much anything can go wrong. Enter Judy to save the day with its emergency preparedness kits. The Safe features 24 potentially life-saving items to support a family of four for 72 hours, including gloves, water packets, dust masks and wet wipes, all wrapped up in a waterproof case. **\$250**

Trufflin truffle sauces

It’s not an Oprah list if there isn’t something truffle-related. Get your truffle fix with these black truffle-infused Sriracha and ranch sauces, perfect for adding bold flavor to your holiday meals. **\$60**

Zach & Zoë honey gift bundle

Though the honey isn’t from Beyoncé’s recently revealed beehives, this honey gift bundle from Zach & Zoë Sweet Bee Farm gets the Oprah stamp of approval. The brand features wildflower honey blends with lavender, ginger, matcha and more. **\$50**

54 Thrones African Beauty Butter Collection gift set

With all the extra-thorough hand washing happening this year, these moisturizing hand and body creams can help keep your hands soft and hydrated. The beauty butters come in a variety of scents. **\$80**

PUZZLES

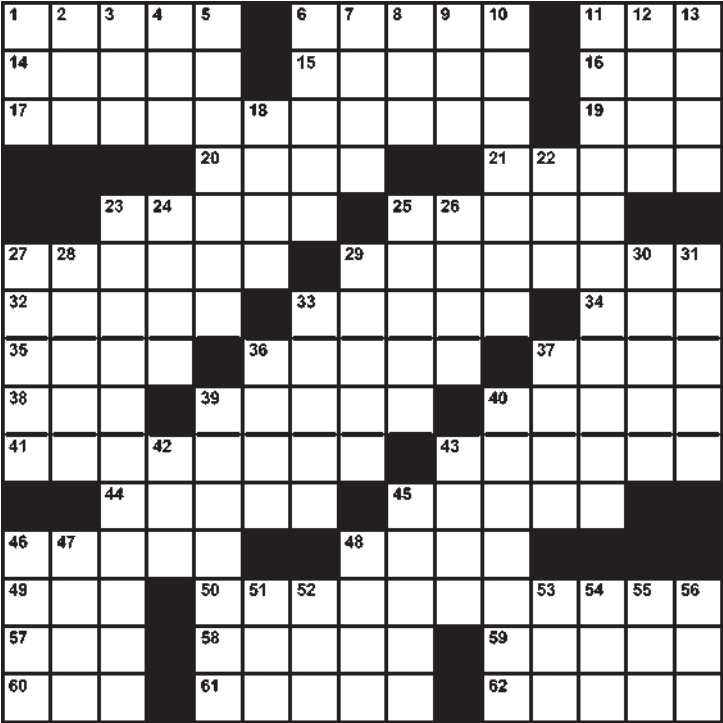
CROSSWORD

EDITED Erik Agard
BY Martha Kimes

RICE MEDLEY

ACROSS

- 1 Take a nap, say
- 6 Untrustworthy
- 11 JPEG alternative, at times
- 14 Instructional genre
- 15 Liquefy in a blender
- 16 “Within ____ Gates” (1920 film)
- 17 Shocking swimmer
- 19 Summer sign
- 20 Goose’s sound
- 21 Sacred hymn
- 23 Not these
- 25 That person’s
- 27 Singer-songwriter King
- 29 Like a dark-brown banana
- 32 Novelist Walker
- 33 Government policy leaders
- 34 Not trans
- 35 Brittany Howard genre
- 36 Swap
- 37 Alternative to suspenders
- 38 Tough part when knitting a sock
- 39 Flies high
- 40 Recurring sequence of events
- 41 Music festival whose 2019 performers included Jill Scott and FKA Twigs
- 43 Line made by folding
- 44 Conscious
- 45 Understand
- 46 Following
- 48 Uplift
- 49 Bathroom, in London
- 50 Makeup of some “vines”
- 57 Concert item
- 58 Some sandwich cookies
- 59 Symbols on a musical staff
- 60 Letters calling for help



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DOWN

- 1 “____Ra and the Princesses of Power”
- 2 Shorter “That’s funny!”
- 3 Mother in a flock
- 4 “Yadda, yadda, yadda” (Abbr.)
- 5 Driving danger
- 6 Backbone
- 7 Long throw in Ultimate
- 8 “Where ____ you going?”
- 9 Actress and civil rights activist Ruby
- 10 Some restaurant reviewers
- 11 Shrinking Arctic formation
- 12 One-on-one battle
- 13 Word on a gift tag
- 18 Kelly Marie Tran’s “Star Wars” role
- 22 Knight’s title

- 23 Dinosaur with three horns
- 24 Leave with a pawnbroker
- 25 Parts of sitcom breaks
- 26 “You are ____” (map phrase)
- 27 Magna ____
- 28 Unapproachable
- 29 Netflix drama set in Missouri
- 30 Some medication
- 31 Cosmetics business-woman Lauder
- 33 Origami bird
- 36 Take the show on the road
- 37 Free passes in competitions
- 39 Mahjong bird
- 40 Sticks for coloring books
- 42 Have yet to pay
- 43 Gator’s relative
- 45 Assumed appearance

Thursday’s Answer



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WORD ROUNDUP

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek 11/6

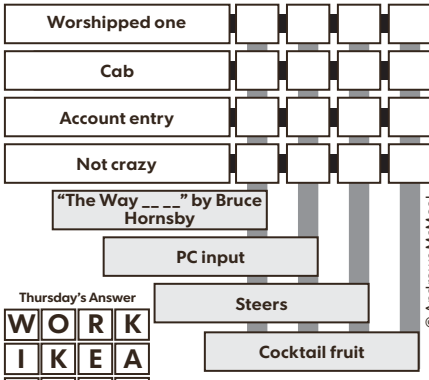
Find and Circle:

- Four metals
- Football ____
- Three oceans
- Two parts of speech
- J.K. Rowling character (first/last name)

Thursday’s answer: SATURN URANUS VENUS EARTH MARS / LIEUTENANT ADMIRAL CAPTAIN / PUMPKIN CHERRY APPLE / ZETA / ADJUST

QUICKCROSS

By John Wilmes 11/6

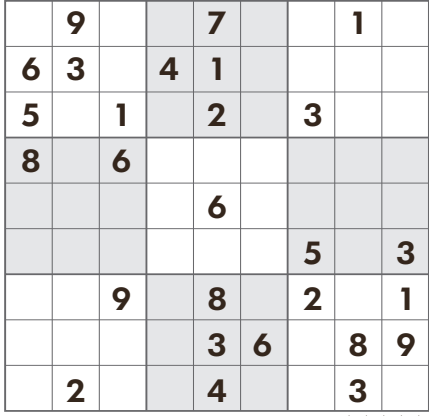


Thursdays Answer
WORK
IKEA
PLAY
EARS
11/5

QUICKCROSS
ON YOUR PHONE
puzzles.usatoday.com

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (no repeats).



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SUDOKU FUSION
ON YOUR PHONE
puzzles.usatoday.com



UP & DOWN WORDS

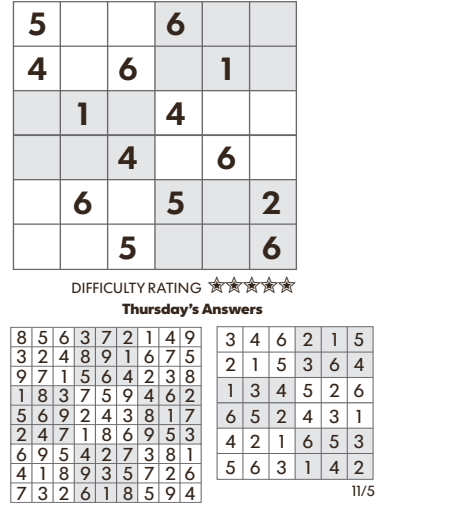
By David L. Hoyt and Russell L. Hoyt 11/6

- 1. STEP
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7. WITH

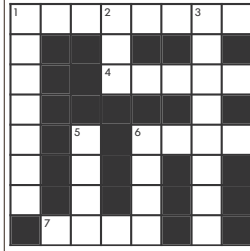
- Clues:
1. Get out of the way
2. Except for
3. Like you and me
4. Geology, for one
5. Research facility
6. Type of colleague
7. Team up alongside
- Thursday’s Answer
LONG WAIT FOR FREE UP NORTH SEA CREATURES

PLAY ONLINE
PUZZLES.USATODAY.COM
© Andrews McMeel

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x2 box contains the numbers 1 through 6 (no repeats).



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TXTPERT

- Across
1. 62488279
4. 77377
6. 2427
7. 3348
- Down
1. 6746466
2. 847
3. 73732724
5. 5323
6. 2328

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Today’s theme Publications



Use the phone keypad to decode the clues.
For example:
2 could be A, B or C... and 5678 could be LOST



Yesterday’s solution

DON’T QUOTE ME

Actress Tallulah Bankhead thinks about her life.
Rearrange the words to complete the quote.
HAD IF LIFE LIVE MAKE MISTAKES SOONER
“ I TO MY AGAIN, I’D THE SAME, ONLY ”
11/6

Thursday’s Answer: “The good thing about science is it’s true whether or not you believe in it.” - Neil deGrasse Tyson

See

Continued from Page 5B

ican astronaut played by Matt Dillon – as well as the emotional toll it takes on both mother and daughter.

Where to watch: Apple TV, Google Play, FandangoNOW

If you’re paranoid about your in-laws: ‘Kindred’

Gaslighting, disturbing animal imagery – including a scene worthy of “The Birds” – and a pervading sense of dread run rampant in a psychological thriller that’s not exactly innovative but decently effective. Tamara Lawrance plays Charlotte, a pregnant British woman planning a move to Australia with her boyfriend (Edward Holcroft) when he dies after being attacked by a horse and she’s taken in by his family. As she gets closer to her due date, Charlotte’s distrust grows for her dead lover’s mom (Fiona Shaw) and his stepbrother (Jack Lowden), though are they the problem or is it all in her head?

Where to watch: Apple TV, Google Play, FandangoNOW

If you want an emotionally complex war story: ‘The Endless Trench’

Beginning in 1936 at the start of the Spanish Civil War, Republican newlywed Higinio (Antonio de la Torre) is hunted by Nationalists, betrayed by a neighbor (Vicente Vergara) and hidden by his seamstress wife Rosa (Belén Cuesta) for the next 33 years. While it helps to know a bit about the politics of the time (a quick Google will hook you up), the core relationship dynamic fuels the well-acted drama. In the film – Spain’s choice to tussle for the international Oscar – Rosa yearns for normalcy yet Higinio’s crippling paranoia turns his need to stay hidden into a choice rather than a necessity.

Where to watch: Netflix

If you’re really hard up for a superhero movie: ‘Mortal’

The latest from filmmaker André Øvredal (who directed the very cool “Troll-

hunter”) is a strange beast, a film with some cool moments that ultimately loses itself between expansive indie thriller and odd fantasy franchise-starter. Nat Wolff plays an American backpacker with crazy powers he doesn’t understand who, when venturing through a Norwegian town, accidentally kills a bullying youngster without even touching him. A psychologist (Iben Akerlie) is brought in but soon enough they’re on the lam and trying to figure out what his deal is, leading them to some old-school Viking mythology and a lot of iffy computer-generated images.

Where to watch: Apple TV, Google Play, FandangoNOW

If you haven’t had enough bleakness in your life: ‘The Dark and the Wicked’

Bryan Bertino writes and directs a brutally unnerving creepfest set on a farm where a bedridden man is dying (Michael Zagst), darkness has infected his wife (Julie Oliver-Touchstone), and their grown-up daughter (Marin Ireland) and son (Michael Abbott Jr.) show up right in time for things to get really

bad. A shapeshifting figure makes itself known and the family wrestles with a foreboding doom that’s entrenched in the house. It’s good but be warned that it’s extraordinarily dreary.

Where to watch: Apple TV, Google Play, FandangoNOW

If you’re curious to see a millennial version of a ‘Saw’ movie: ‘Triggered’

Nine friends, all a part of a dark secret no one wants to talk about, return for their high school homecoming, party hard in the woods and then wake up in the middle of the night with high-tech time bombs attached to their chests. The gory survival thriller has an interesting premise that twists familiar tropes (from horror traps to final girls) and offers a few bloody good kills, yet wears out its welcome with an overlong run time and a bunch of nondescript characters played by relatively unknown faces.

Where to watch: Apple TV, Google Play, FandangoNOW

TONIGHT ON TV

	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
NETWORK								
ABC	Shark Tank Two entrepreneurs discuss their spring-loaded cake stand. (N)		20/20 New interviews with loved ones and detectives add insights into what happened to Susan Powell, the wife and mother who disappeared from her Utah home. (N)				Local Programs	Jimmy Kimmel Live Charlie Hunnam. (N)
CBS	The Greatest #AtHome Videos A 29-year-old Bahaman man is reunited with his biological father. (N)		Magnum P.I. Pickpocket steals suspicious cell phone; Magnum is wary of Higgins' indecision.		Blue Bloods Anthony is shot during witness interview; lieutenant and disabled man conflict.		Local Programs	The Late Show with Stephen Colbert (N)
Fox			WWE Friday Night SmackDown from Amway Center in Orlando (Live)		Local Programs			
NBC	American Ninja Warrior The remaining athletes take on the 10-obstacle Finals course; the elite contestants who advance into the top eight compete in a playoff bracket.				Dateline NBC A man speaks out after thwarting murder-for-hire plot. (N)		Local Programs	The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon (N)
PBS	Washington Week (N)	Washington Week (N)	Great Performances A musician-turned-bodyguard struggles to keep his two mobster clients apart. (N)					Amanpour (N)
CW	Masters of Illusion	Masters of Illusion	Animals (N)	Animals Deer ruins meal.	Local Programs			
ION	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Prayer cards.		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Lesbian group.		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Older case.		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Girl claims rape.	
Telemundo	Escape Plan Security expert wrongly imprisoned.		Todo por mi hija		Falsa identidad (N)		Noticias Telemundo (N)	Noticias Telemundo (N)
Univision	La rosa de Guadalupe		Imperio de mentiras		Dulce ambición		Noticiero Univisión (N)	Noti. Univí. Ed. noc. (N)
CABLE								
A&E	The First 48 Mother of five bound and executed.		Live Rescue (N)					
AMC	The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King As two		hobbits approach Mordor and the end of their journey, the influence of the One Ring provokes suspicion and mistrust between the old friends. Ian McKellen (2003)					
Animal Planet	River Monsters Unusual injuries.		River Monsters: Deadliest Man-eaters Deadly shark-octopus hybrid. (N)				River Monsters Jeremy investigates a river mutilation.	
BBC America	From Russia (1963) (6:00)	Goldfinger James Bond sets out to stop a master criminal from causing world economic chaos. Sean Connery, Honor Blackman (1964)					The Graham Norton Show Jessie Buckley. (N)	
BET	The Help Unlikely friendship in a small town. (2011)		Tyler Perry's Sistars		House of Payne	Assisted Living	Martin Mean maid.	Martin Martin babysits.
Bravo	13 Going on 30 Teenager wakes up as 30-year-old woman. Jennifer Garner (2004)		13 Going on 30 A geeky teenage girl wakes up as a 30-year-old magazine executive. Jennifer Garner (2004)				How to Be Single (2016)	
Cartoon	Gumball	Gumball	Bob's Burgers	American Dad!	Rick and Morty	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy
CMT	Mom School fees.	Mom Adam moves in.	Mom Christy's job offer.	Mom Adam smokes.	Mom	Mom Violet gets sick.	Mom Helicopter mom.	Mom Death anniversary.
CNBC	American Greed: Scams, Scoundrels and Scandals		American Greed: Scams, Scoundrels and Scandals		American Greed: Scams, Scoundrels and Scandals		American Greed: Scams, Scoundrels and Scandals	
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360° (N)		Cuomo Prime Time (N)		CNN Tonight with Don Lemon (N)		CNN Tonight with Don Lemon (N)	
Comedy	Schitt's Creek	Schitt's Creek	Schitt's Creek	Schitt's Creek	Schitt's Creek	Kevin Hart: Laugh at My Pain Kevin Hart (2011)	Chappelle's Show	
Discovery	Gold Rush Rick garners his first gold of the season; Fred enlists reinforcements. (N)						Gold Rush: Dave Turin's Lost Mine	
Disney	Raven's Home (N)	Just Roll with It	BUNK'D Family vacation.	Liv and Maddie	Liv and Maddie	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Just Roll with It
DisXD	Player Select	Parker Plays	Player Select	LEGO Marvel	LEGO Marvel	The Owl House	The Owl House	The Owl House
DIY	Beachfront Bargain Hunt: Renovation A family house.		Beachfront Bargain Hunt: Renovation		Beachfront Bargain Hunt: Renovation		Beachfront Bargain Hunt: Renovation	
E!	The Proposal A boss marries to avoid deportation. Sandra Bullock (2009) (7:00)		The Proposal Publisher from Canada forces assistant to marry her to avoid deportation. Sandra Bullock, Ryan Reynolds (2009)					
Food	Diners, Drive-Ins & Dives	Diners, Drive-Ins & Dives	Diners & Dives (N)	Diners, Drive-Ins & Dives	Diners, Drive-Ins & Dives	Diners, Drive-Ins & Dives	Diners, Drive-Ins & Dives	Diners, Drive-Ins & Dives
Fox News	Tucker Carlson Tonight (N)		Hannity (N)		The Ingraham Angle (N)		Fox News @ Night(N)	
Freeform	The Santa Clause 2 Tim Allen (2002) (6:30)		The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause Jack Frost tries to take over Christmas. Tim Allen (2006)				The 700 Club	
FX	BlackKkKlansman African-American detective attempts to infiltrate and expose the Ku Klux Klan. John David Washington, Adam Driver (2018)						BlackKkKlansman John David Washington (2018)	
FX	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons
GSN	America Says	Master Minds	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud
Hallmark	A Shoe Addict's Christmas A woman takes a trip to Christmases past, present and future. (2018)				Christmas Under Wraps A driven doctor is denied a prestigious position and moves to Alaska. (2014)			
HGTV	Hunters International (N)	Hunters International (N)	My Big Italian Adventure Setback in cellar. (N)		House Hunters	Hunters International	House Hunters	Hunters International
History	The Curse of Oak Island New theory.		The Curse of Oak Island DMT shaft.		The Curse of Oak Island Shifting tides.		The Curse of Oak Island Continue or quit.	
HLN	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files
ID	48 Hours on ID A man shot dead after a divorce.		48 Hours on ID: NCIS Theft & desertion. (N)		The Body on Bowden Road 20-year-old killed. (N)		Web of Lies Ex-husband suspected in wife vanishing.	
IFC	The Dark Knight Rises The Dark Knight resurfaces to protect Gotham from a brutal, new enemy. (2012) (6:00)				Inglourious Basterds In WWII, Jewish-American soldiers set out to strike terror in the Third Reich. (2009)			
Lifetime	The Christmas Yule Blog Man shows cynical woman a new side of Christmas meanings. Sara Canning (2020)				A Crafty Christmas Romance Woman tries to find author of 70-year-old letter to Santa. Nicola Posener (2020)			
MotorTrend	Dirt Every Day (N)	Dirt Every Day	Junkyard Gold (N)	Junkyard Gold	Roadkill Garage (N)	Roadkill Garage	Faster With Finnegan LS swap.	
MSNBC	All in with Chris Hayes (N)		The Rachel Maddow Show (N)		The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell (N)		The 11th Hour with Brian Williams (N)	
MTV	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness "Try Big."	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness (N)	Ridiculousness
NatGeo	Ultimate Survival Alaska Land or sea routes.		Ultimate Survival Alaska 24 icy miles.		Ultimate Survival Alaska Homemade rafts.		Ultimate Survival Alaska The final leg.	
NatGeo Wild	Running Wild with Bear Grylls Cara fulfills dream.		Running Wild with Bear Grylls Norway adventure.		Running Wild with Bear Grylls Glacier adventure.		Running Wild with Bear Grylls Cara fulfills dream.	
Nick	Danger Force	Danger Force	The Substitute	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends Stray jellyfish.	Friends
OWN	Ready to Love Love on island.		Ready to Love (N)		Put A Ring On It (N)		Put A Ring On It The men go out on dates.	
Oxygen	Dateline: Secrets Uncovered On the run. (N)		Buried in the Backyard Search for killer.		Buried in the Backyard Mothers are missing.		Dateline: Secrets Uncovered On the run.	
Paramount	Grown Ups 2 Friends prove glory days aren't over. Adam Sandler (2013) (7:00)		Grown Ups 2 Family man Lenny and the gang prove their glory days aren't over yet. Adam Sandler, Kevin James (2013)					
Pop	Steel Magnolias A circle of women experience life.		Runaway Bride A writer falls for a woman with a habit of leaving grooms at the altar. Richard Gere, Julia Roberts (1999)				Steel Magnolias (1989)	
Science	How It's Made	How It's Made	How It's Made	How It's Made	How It's Made	How It's Made	How It's Made	How It's Made
Sundance	Law & Order Scientist couple killed in house fire.		Law & Order Murders of three homeless men.		Law & Order Charity executive's murder.		Law & Order War vet's death linked to professor.	
Syfy	The Fifth Element (1997)	Death Wish When his family is attacked, a doctor seeks to kill the criminals responsible. Bruce Willis, Vincent D'Onofrio (2018)				Futurama	Futurama	
TBS	Fist Fight Teacher challenged to fist fight. (2017) (7:30)		Pain & Gain A trio of bodybuilders in Florida get involved in an extortion ring. Mark Wahlberg, Dwayne Johnson (2013) (9:15)					
TCM	The Greatest Show on Earth A tough and greedy circus manager sparks a vicious feud with his performers. Betty Hutton (1952)				The Circus Vagabond accidentally joins a circus. Charlie Chaplin (1928) (10:45)			
TLC	90 Day Fiancé: The Other Way Kenny & Armando get marriage license. (N)				90 Day Fiancé (N)	90 Day Fiancé: The Other Way Honest opinions.	90 Day Fiancé	
TNT	Transformers Rival clans of alien robots arrive on Earth in search of a powerful artifact. Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox (2007)					All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite Countdown to Full Gear		
Travel	Ghost Adventures The crew travels to Dillon, Mont.		Ghost Adventures Exploring old hotel.		Ghost Adventures Ghost searching.		Ghost Adventures Idaho public school.	
TruTV	Impractical: Inside Jokes	Impractical: Inside Jokes	Impractical: Inside Jokes	Impractical: Inside Jokes	Top Secret Videos	Impractical: Inside Jokes	Impractical: Inside Jokes	Impractical: Inside Jokes
TV Land	Loves Raymond	Loves Raymond	Loves Raymond	Loves Raymond	Loves Raymond	Loves Raymond	The King of Queens	The King of Queens
USA	Marvel's The Avengers Robert Downey Jr. (2012)		Ant-Man Thief recruited by scientist to invade a lab while using a super-suit. Paul Rudd, Evangeline Lilly (2015)				Modern Family	
VH1	Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit A former lounge singer		teaches choir students at an inner-city Catholic school. Whoopi Goldberg (1993)		Sister Act A Reno lounge singer hides in a convent. Whoopi Goldberg (1992)			
Viceland	It's Always Sunny	It's Always Sunny	It's Always Sunny	Kingpin A former bowling phenom who lost his hand grooms an Amish boy to play the game. Woody Harrelson, Randy Quaid (1996)				
WE	Love After Lockup Court date.		Love After Lockup Shavel catches Quaylon lying. (N)		Bridezillas Jessica loses control of her wedding.		Love After Lockup Shavel catches Quaylon lying.	
Weather	Deadline to Disaster Three tornadoes.		Deadline to Disaster Thirteen tornadoes.		World's Wildest Weather Storm chaser.		World's Wildest Weather Starbucks tornado.	
WGN America	NewsNation		NewsNation		NewsNation		NewsNation	
MOVIE NETWORKS								
Cinemax	Big Momma's House 2 Martin Lawrence (2006)	Stuber A man working for a ride-sharing company picks up a police officer. Iko Uwais, Kumail Nanjiani (2019) (8:25)			Warrior Ah Sahm, Young Jun and Hong travel with Vega to a U.S.-Mexico border town. (N)		Warrior Vega takes Ah Sahm to a border town.	Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (2012) (11:40)
Encore	Think Like a Man Four couples manipulate each other using a popular relationship advice book. (2012)		The Amazing Spider-Man Peter Parker discovers a mysterious briefcase that leads to the lab of his father's old partner, and he attains superhuman abilities in the fight for good. Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone (2012)				Along Came Polly A free-spirited woman tries to liberate a passive man obsessed with safety. (2004) (11:20)	
FXM	The Emoji Movie An emoji capable of various expressions longs to be normal like his friends. (2017) (7:20)		The Emoji Movie An emoji capable of various expressions longs to be normal like his friends. T.J. Miller, James Corden (2017) (9:05)		Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul Family road trip goes awry as Greg schemes to attend a video gaming convention. Jason Drucker (2017) (10:50)			
Hallmark Movies	The Perfect Christmas Present When a businessman's friend asks him to find the perfect gift for his girlfriend, he ends up falling in love with her and feels torn between her and his friend. Sam Page, Tara Holt (2017)				Christmas Tree Lane A talented pianist, singer, and songwriter shares her love of music with the voice students she teaches in the loft above her father's music store. Alicia Witt, Andrew Walker (2020)			
HBO	The Undoing Grace faces probative questions.	A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas Harold and Kumar scour New York City for a replacement Christmas tree. John Cho, Kal Penn (2011) (8:25)			Real Time with Bill Maher (N)	How To with John Wilson Memory retention. (N)	Real Time with Bill Maher	
Lifetime Movie	Deranged Granny A woman who always wanted to be a grandmother is thrilled when her son meets a woman with children, but she is overcome by an unhealthy obsession with them. Wendie Malick (2020)		Killer Grandma An old woman attempts to kidnap her granddaughter to replace her deceased child after a married woman invites her to live with her and her daughter. Kelly Sullivan, Nana Visitor (2019)					
Showtime	The Manchurian Candidate Soldiers brainwashed for political plot. Denzel Washington (2004) (6:45)		Brahms: The Boy II A young family moves into the Heelshire's mansion, but terror begins to occur. Katie Holmes, Ralph Ineson (2020)		Courage Under Fire An army officer battles private demons while investigating a pilot's death. Denzel Washington, Meg Ryan (1996)			
Starz	Frozen Princess tries to break spell that has trapped the kingdom in eternal winter. Kristen Bell, Idina Menzel (2013)		Jumanji: The Next Level A group of friends must return to Jumanji in an attempt to rescue one of their own, but they soon learn that the game is broken and everything is out of sorts. Dwayne Johnson, Jack Black (2019) (9:46)					
TMC	Julie & Julia A struggling writer prepares recipes by following the lessons of renowned chef Julia Child, gaining insights on issues of life and food. Meryl Streep, Amy Adams (2009)				Sunshine Cleaning A single mom starts up her own biohazard and crime scene clean-up business. Amy Adams, Emily Blunt (2009) (10:05)		Sword of Trust A woman inherits an antique sword.	
SPORTS NETWORKS								
ESPN	College Football Miami Hurricanes at North Carolina State Wolfpack from Carter-Finley Stadium (Live)				SportsCenter			
ESPN2	High School Football American Heritage Patriots at St. Thomas Aquinas Raiders (Live)					Max on Boxing	Top Rank	
FS1	Gander Truck Series Phoenix from Phoenix Raceway in Avondale, Ariz. (Live)		College Football BYU Cougars at Boise State Broncos from Albertsons Stadium (Live)					
Golf	PGA Tour Golf 2020 Houston Open - Round 2 from Memorial Park Golf Course in Houston				PGA Tour Champions Golf from Phoenix Country Club in Phoenix			
MLB	MLB Network Special		Field of Dreams A strange voice tells a farmer to turn his cornfield into a baseball diamond. (1989)		MLB Tonight			
NBA	2011 NBA Finals Dallas vs. Miami		2011 NBA Finals Finals, Game 6 Dallas Mavericks at Miami Heat from AmericanAirlines Arena		#NBATogether Johnson		High Tops	
NBCSports	Mecum Auto Auctions							
NFLN	NFL Gameday View		NFL Fantasy Live		NFL Gameday View		NFL Total Access An inside look at all 32 teams.	

MOVIES

Eastern Time may vary in some cities
(N) New episode.

FASHION

DIY fall trends: Save cash with these tips

Jenna Ryu
USA TODAY

Are you guilty of excessive online shopping during the pandemic? You're not the only one.

While stores have largely reopened amid the pandemic, many consumers are still opting to shop from home. According to a new survey from PYMNTS, a business-to-business platform specializing in payments and commerce, nearly 36% of U.S. consumers are buying retail goods online as of May 23 – up from 29% in mid-April, when few shops were open.

If you're looking to treat yourself to a few new looks but trying to save money, put down your credit card and work with your existing wardrobe. Chances are, you have a lot of neglected clothes in your closet.

Here are seven easy and affordable fashion hacks to transform clothes you already own.

1. Tie-dye sweats

Many are sporting this comfortable and colorful look, but these sweat sets can range from \$50 to \$250. The look is easy to replicate at home with a fabric dye kit (\$15 to \$30).

All you have to do is find some white cotton sweatshirts, sweatpants, zip-up jackets or shorts (pre-wash if they're new). Rinse your garments, rubber band them, then tie dye away – with as many or few colors as you'd like. Once you're done, place the wet clothes in a plastic bag (to prevent a mess) six to eight hours before washing.

So how many colors should you add? Alison Deyette, a style and beauty expert seen on the "Today" show and "Good Morning America," suggests using four or more colors if you're looking for a '60s Grateful Dead vibe, but limiting yourself to one or two may help you achieve a more contemporary look.

2. Acid-washed clothing

If the tie-dye is too colorful for you, no worries! You can create a vintage splattered look on your dark-colored T-



Tying your clothes up with rubber bands will help you achieve the perfect tie-dye look. SPENCER MORECROFT



Alison Deyette painted black stripes on her espadrilles. ALISON DEYETTE

shirts with some bleach or even stencil your own design with a Chlorox bleach pen.

"Draw a design, let it sit for an hour, and when you come back, it might get a little dry," Deyette says. "Just brush off that top layer of the crustiness, let it sit again, then wash the item and you now have your own white design."

3. Embroidered T-shirt pocket

If you have a T-shirt that's looking too plain, there's an easy way to person-

alize your look. With a needle and thread, you can embroider a cute little design, such as a strawberry, smiley face, flower or heart, onto the pocket of your T-shirt. For beginners, it may help to watch YouTube tutorials or print out and trace your desired image for cleaner results.

Because this skill might be difficult for beginners, Abi Patten, a former tie-dye and upcycle adviser for Stylist magazine, suggests using a pre-printed water soluble canvas (\$9) you can print your design on.

"Using (the canvas) as a guide, you place it on top of your fabric and sew the printed design. Then when you've finished, you gently hand wash your design; the canvas magically dissolves and you are left with just your design on the garment," she says, adding that an embroidery hoop can help keep your design in place as you work.

4. Painted-pocket denim

Your denim jeans might all be looking the same, so try spicing them up with acrylic paint. Whether you want to paint the bottom of your flares or just the back pockets, it's a fun activity to create a personalized work of art that will get you compliments. Just make sure to add

a fabric medium or acrylic polymer to prevent the paint from cracking.

"Wherever you're going to paint on any pair of jeans, look for less stitching. The more blank the space, the better it acts as your canvas," Deyette advises. She also suggests using blue painter's tape to block off areas you don't want paint bleeding into.

"You can use glitter glues and gems to brighten up your design," says Patten, who recommends hand washing or a delicate machine wash for your finished garment.

5. Fabric-painted sneakers

Bored with your solid-colored shoes? Deyette recommends fabric paint markers. Sketch out a design directly on the shoes, then draw right over it with your fabric pen. Paint tape can help you achieve crisper lines. "I recently used old Cole Haan white leather espadrilles, and they were just a little too plain for me," says Deyette, who applied black fabric paint for a black-and-white look.

6. Iron-on shirts

Re-create a 2000s look with any plain shirt by printing out your favorite image or photo and ironing it onto your tee with transfer paper. Keep in mind that it's better to use dark-color shirts for light-color images (and vice versa), and make sure to flip the image before printing to avoid winding up with a mirror image of the original. Patten suggests using cotton shirts for the best results, as the required heat may melt polyester or acrylic.

7. Fringe

All you need for this casual and breezy look are scissors! It's best to draw your lines first with chalk to ensure your tassels are even, Patten says. Once you're ready, start cutting your shirt, dress or tank top upward and voila! Deyette adds that a similar look can be achieved with jeans. Just use sharp scissors to cut the bottom of your denim, then use a sewing hook to fringe for a vintage frayed look.

USA TODAY AIRPLAY CHARTS

TOP 40			
T	L	ARTIST	SONG
1	1	24KGOLDN f/ IANN DIOR	Mood
2	2	JAWSH685 X JASON DERULO X BTS	Savage Love (Laxed - Siren Beat)
3	3	SURF MESA f/ EMILIE	ily (i love you baby)
4	4	HARRY STYLES	Watermelon Sugar
5	7	GABBY BARRETT f/ CHARLIE PUTH	I Hope
6	5	LEWIS CAPALDI	Before You Go
7	8	AVAMAX	Kings & Queens
8	6	THE WEEKND	Blinding Lights
9	11	BTS	Dynamite
10	12	JUSTIN BIEBER f/ CHANCE THE RAPPER	Holy
11	13	KANE BROWN f/ KHALID f/ SWAELEE	Be Like That
12	10	JUICE WRLD f/ MARSHMELLO	Come And Go
13	15	AJR	Bang!
14	14	SHAWN MENDES	Wonder
15	---	DUA LIPA	Levitating

URBAN			
T	L	ARTIST	SONG
1	1	DRAKE f/ LIL DURK	Laugh Now Cry Later
2	3	POPSMOKE f/ 50 CENT f/ RODDY RICCH	The Woo
3	2	CARDI B f/ MEGAN THEE STALLION	WAP
4	4	CHRIS BROWN X YOUNG THUG	Go Crazy
5	5	YOUNG DOLPH f/ MEGAN THEE STALLION	RNB
6	7	MONEYBAGG YO & BLAC YOUNG STA	Said Sum
7	6	CHLOE X HALLÉ	Do It
8	11	LIL BABY f/ 42 DUGG	We Paid
9	12	JHENE AIKO f/ H.E.R.	B.S.
10	8	RODDY RICCH f/ MUSTARD	High Fashion
11	9	BEATKING f/ QUEENDOM COME	Then Leave
12	10	NE-YO & JEREMIH	U 2 Luv
13	13	DABABY f/ YOUNG THUG	Blind
14	14	MULATTO	Muwop
15	15	K CAMP f/ JACQUEES	What's On Your Mind

HOT ADULT CONTEMPORARY			
T	L	ARTIST	SONG
1	2	THE WEEKND	Blinding Lights
2	1	GABBY BARRETT f/ CHARLIE PUTH	I Hope
3	3	LEWIS CAPALDI	Before You Go
4	5	JAWSH685 X JASON DERULO X BTS	Savage Love (Laxed - Siren Beat)
5	4	HARRY STYLES	Watermelon Sugar
6	7	AJR	Bang!
7	6	DUA LIPA	Break My Heart
8	8	POST MALONE	Circles
9	10	AVAMAX	Kings & Queens
10	9	TAYLOR SWIFT	cardigan

COMPILLED BY MEDIATEBASE

● Increase in Spins

● Debut

T This week

L Last week

COUNTRY			
T	L	ARTIST	SONG
1	4	MATT STELL	Everywhere But On
2	3	RUSSELL DICKERSON	Love You Like I Used To
3	5	MORGAN WALLÉN	More Than My Hometown
4	2	JASON ALDEAN	Got What I Got
5	6	BLAKE SHELTON f/ GWEN STEFANI	Happy Anywhere
6	1	JAMESON RODGERS	Some Girls
7	7	HARDY f/ LAUREN ALANA f/ DEVIN DAWSON	One Beer
8	9	CHRIS LANE	Big, Big Plans
9	8	PARKER MCCOLLUM	Pretty Heart
10	10	JON PARDI	Ain't Always The Cowboy
11	11	KENNY CHESNEY	Happy Does
12	12	DAN + SHAY	I Should Probably Go To Bed
13	13	LADY A	Champagne Night
14	14	KELSEA BALLERINI	Hole In The Bottle
15	---	DARIUS RUCKER	Beers And Sunshine

RHYTHMIC			
T	L	ARTIST	SONG
1	1	DRAKE f/ LIL DURK	Laugh Now Cry Later
2	2	24KGOLDN f/ IANN DIOR	Mood
3	3	POPSMOKE f/ 50 CENT f/ RODDY RICCH	The Woo
4	4	CHRIS BROWN X YOUNG THUG	Go Crazy
5	9	INTERNET MONEY f/ GUNNA f/ TOUVERNAW	Lemonade
6	8	DABABY f/ YOUNG THUG	Blind
7	6	CARDI B f/ MEGAN THEE STALLION	WAP
8	7	DABABY f/ RODDY RICCH	Rockstar
9	11	TRAVIS SCOTT f/ YOUNG THUG f/ M.I.A.	FRANCHISE
10	5	SAWEETIE	Tap In
11	---	POPSMOKE f/ LIL BABY f/ DABABY	For The Night
12	10	JUICE WRLD	Wishing Well
13	12	DJ KHALED f/ DRAKE	Greece
14	13	JUSTIN BIEBER f/ CHANCE THE RAPPER	Holy
15	15	JHENE AIKO f/ H.E.R.	B.S.

KYLIE MINOQUE

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Featuring
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and "Magic"

"If anyone deserves to capitalize on 2020's dance-pop revival, it's Kylie Minogue"
- Los Angeles Times

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URBAN ADULT CONTEMPORARY				CHRISTIAN			
T	L	ARTIST	SONG	T	L	ARTIST	SONG
1	1	NE-YO & JEREMIH	U 2 Luv	1	3	WE THE KINGDOM	God So Loved (Live)
2	3	QUEEN NAIJA	Butterflies Pt. 2	2	2	CHRIS TOMLIN f/ LADY A	Who You Are To Me
3	4	TREY SONGZ f/ SUMMER WALKER	Back Home	3	4	TAUREN WELLS	Famous For (I Believe)
4	2	LONR. f/ H.E.R.	Make The Most	4	5	CAIN	Rise Up (Lazarus)
5	8	USHER	Bad Habits	5	1	ZACH WILLIAMS f/ DOLLY PARTON	There Was Jesus
6	7	SNOH AALEGRA	Whoa	6	6	DANNY GOKEY	Love God Love People
7	6	CHARLIE WILSON	One I Got	7	---	NEED TO BREATHE	Who Am I
8	---	ALICIA KEYS f/ KHALID	So Done	8	9	TASHA LAYTON	Into The Sea (It's Gonna Be Ok)
9	10	KEM f/ TONI BRAXTON	Live Out Your Love	9	7	CHRIS WILSON	Revolutionary
10	5	LEDISI	Anything For You	10	10	FOR KING & COUNTRY f/ FRANKLIN KELLY	TOGETHER

ALTERNATIVE				ACTIVE ROCK			
T	L	ARTIST	SONG	T	L	ARTIST	SONG
1	1	ALL TIME LOW f/ BLACK BEAR	Monsters	1	1	COREY TAYLOR	Black Eyes Blue
2	4	WALLOWS	Are You Bored Yet?	2	3	AC/DC	Shot In The Dark
3	3	DAYGLOW	Can I Call You Tonight?	3	2	SEETHER	Dangerous
4	2	MACHINE GUN KELLY	Bloody Valentine	4	4	BAD FLOWER	30
5	7	PEACH TREE RASCALS	Mariposa	5	5	DEFTONES	Ohms
6	5	MATT MAESON	Hallucinogenics	6	6	I PREVAIL	Every Time You Leave
7	8	IDONTKNOWHOW BUT THEY FOUND ME	Leave Me Alone	7	8	MARILYN MANSON	We Are Chaos
8	6	TWENTY ONE PILOTS	Level Of Concern	8	9	THREE DAYS GRACE	Somebody That I Used To Know
9	9	JUICE WRLD f/ MARSHMELLO	Come And Go	9	7	CHRIS CORNELL	Patience
10	10	ROYAL & THE SERPENT	Overwhelmed	10	10	AYRON JONES	Take Me Away

ADULT ROCK				LATIN			
T	L	ARTIST	SONG	T	L	ARTIST	SONG
1	1	TAME IMPALA	Is It True	1	1	MALUMA	Hawai
2	2	MY MORNING JACKET	Feel You	2	4	LA ADICTIVA BANDASAN JOSE...	Lo Que Nunca Sera
3	5	BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN	Letter To You	3	2	JBALVIN f/ DUA LIPA f/ BAD BUNNY f/ TAINY	Un Dia (One Day)
4	4	DERMOT KENNEDY	Giants	4	3	OZUNA	Caramelo
5	7	PHOENIX	Identical	5	---	OZUNA X WISIN	Gistro Amarillo
6	3	MATT MAESON	Hallucinogenics	6	8	BANDA SINAILOENSEMS	Cerrando Ciclos
7	6	ELLE KING	The Let Go	7	6	CHRISTIAN NODAL	Aqui Abajo
8	10	OF MONSTERS AND MEN	Visitor	8	---	FARRUKO	La Toxica
9	8	DAYGLOW	Can I Call You Tonight?	9	5	KAROL G	Ay Dios Mio
10	---	TOM PETTY	Leave Virginia Alone	10	9	ALEJANDRO FERNANDEZ f/ CALIBRE 50	Decepciones

SPORTSLINE



D.J. AND DAVE UIAGALELEI
BY KEN RUINARD/USA TODAY SPORTS

FIRST WORDS

“I’m no LaVar Ball. I’m just grateful and thankful to have a great kid. I just want everybody to know that he is as advertised.”

Dave Uiagalelei, enthusiastic father of Clemson freshman quarterback D.J. Uiagalelei, who was shown on TV multiple times during his son’s first start Saturday, a win over Boston College. D.J. will start again this week for the No. 1 Tigers at No. 4 Notre Dame as Heisman candidate Trevor Lawrence remains in COVID-19 protocols.

“I know he’s a happy dad, but sometimes he can be over the top.”

D.J., saying he has blocked his father on Twitter this week.

NOTABLE NUMBERS

4 ATP Tour players with at least 1,000 match victories in tennis’ Open Era after Rafael Nadal hit that milestone Wednesday in Paris. The others: Jimmy Connors, 1,274; Roger Federer, 1,242; Ivan Lendl, 1,068.

45 College football games canceled or postponed since the season began for COVID-19 issues, latest being Air Force at Army, Tulsa at Navy, Washington at California and Louisiana Tech at North Texas, which were scheduled for Saturday.

3 NFL team facilities closed Thursday because of COVID-19 issues: Texans, Bears and Colts, though Indianapolis held an outdoor practice while having virtual meetings.

561 Regular-season TD passes for the Bucs’ Tom Brady, one more than the Saints’ Drew Brees. The two meet Sunday for the seventh time in their careers. Brees’ teams hold a 4-2 edge, including by 11 points in the season opener.

LAST WORD

“We can always do better, and that is my goal. Given what has transpired this year, I intend to do everything possible to ensure I receive no further medication complaints.”

Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert, whose career has recently been tainted by a rash of medication violations, pledging to take steps to run a “tight ship.” Heading into the Breeders’ Cup on Friday and Saturday at Keeneland Race Course in Lexington, Kentucky, Baffert says he will assume greater personal responsibility for a barn that has produced four known positive drug tests this year; he is increasing training for employees and has retained veterinarian Michael Hore to help protect his horses and improve his rules compliance.

SPORTS WEEKLY

Pro and college football previews and picks for the weekend, including Clemson-Notre Dame, Georgia-Florida, Seahawks-Bills, Saints-Buccaneers. In baseball, relive the Dodgers’ World Series run with a commemorative cover and game-by-game review. Also, ranking the top MLB free agents. Available on newsstands. Subscribe at mysportsweekly.com or 800-872-1415.
From staff and wire reports

Independent BYU back in Top 10



Dan Wolken
Columnist
USA TODAY

Had there never been a COVID-19 pandemic, BYU would have played its most important game of the year against Utah in its season opener, faced five opponents from Power Five conferences in the first six weeks and quite possibly gone into October without a national ranking or significant goals to play for.

That’s generally how it’s gone for the Cougars since declaring independence from the Mountain West Conference in 2011, a project born of ambition bordering on delusion.

“There are BYU fans who feel like, ‘Hey, let’s play a tough schedule,’” said Jarom Jordan, the co-host of BYU Sports Nation on BYUtv, the school’s in-house television network. “I’ve been on this hill saying why? It’s too much for almost anyone, let alone BYU.”

The debate over whether BYU’s scheduling strategy as an independent should more closely mirror Notre Dame or tilt toward a lighter load has been raging for years among BYU fans, who are some of the most intense and knowledgeable in all of college football. As Jordan sees it, his side has been vindicated by the accidental circumstances surrounding this season.

With a schedule cobbled together off the scraps of limited availability from

See WOLKEN, Page 3C



Quarterback Zach Wilson has 19 TD throws in leading BYU to a 7-0 record.
RICK BOWMER/POOL PHOTO



Limiting Clemson running back Travis Etienne will be one of Notre Dame’s toughest challenges Saturday. Irish coach Brian Kelly called Etienne, who has at least one TD in 42 games, the country’s best running back. KEN RUINARD/USA TODAY SPORTS

CLEMSON CAN CALL ON DEEP RESERVES

Tyler James
South Bend Tribune

SOUTH BEND, Ind. – The list of players whom Clemson has played without at times this season could be crippling for many programs.

But the No. 1 Tigers (7-0, 6-0 Atlantic Coast) are the top-ranked team in the country in part because their incredible depth has allowed them to navigate the season despite the absences.

Last Saturday against Boston College, Clemson played without several starters including quarterback Trevor Lawrence (COVID-19), wide receiver Justyn Ross (spine), defensive tackle Tyler Davis (ankle), defensive end Justin Foster (undisclosed), linebacker Jamie Skalski (groin) and linebacker Mike Jones (hamstring).

Most, if not all, of those players won’t play against No. 4 Notre Dame (6-0, 5-0) on Saturday in Notre Dame Stadium (7:30 p.m. ET, NBC) either. Yet the Clem-

son depth chart has plenty of talent regardless of who will be available.

That’s the product of elite recruiting by a program that’s played in the College Football Playoff in each of the past five seasons and won the national championship twice during that time.

“We have their depth chart here, and I’ll take their fourth sam linebacker,” Notre Dame head coach Brian Kelly said Monday. “Let’s see, I’ll take their fifth

See CLEMSON, Page 3C

If sports world could stop the count ...



Nancy Armour
Columnist
USA TODAY

The president of the United States is saying this week’s vote count in several states should stop before it’s complete because he thinks that will make him a winner. That’s not how the rules

of any game work.

You have to play all the way to the end and accept the results. Even ones so painful they trigger rage, sorrow and embarrassment years later.

“The biggest reason why this is so disappointing is that this is a tournament that I dreamt of winning as a kid, that I spent hours practicing. I mean, countless hours practicing, dreaming of winning this tournament,” a shell-shocked Phil Mickelson said after his

72nd-hole meltdown at Winged Foot cost him the 2006 U.S. Open golf title.

“Had it right there in my hand, man. It was right there and I let it go,” said Mickelson, who, 14 years later, still hasn’t won the one major he craves. “I just cannot believe I did that.”

You’re not alone, Lefty. Far from it. In honor of Donald Trump’s petulance, here are times athletes could have

See ARMOUR, Page 2C

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF IMPACT GAMES

Georgia-Florida headlines SEC slate

Eddie Timanus USA TODAY

If you thought that the election is contentious, just wait until the College Football Playoff arguments get going this month.

Besides No. 1 Clemson at No. 4 Notre Dame, an unexpected Big Ten East co-leader and the Pac-12 joining the fray highlight this weekend's games of impact as the quest for the playoff continues.

No. 5 Georgia vs. No. 8 Florida

Saturday, 3:30 p.m. ET, CBS

Things might not be quite as festive at this annual neutral-site gathering of fierce border rivals in Jacksonville, Florida. But the stakes are as high as ever with the Southeastern Conference East crown almost certainly on the line.

The stronger unit will be on the field for both teams when Florida has the ball. Gators QB Kyle Trask shook off some early rust to put up another big score against Missouri last week. The Bulldogs' defense is superb, but the absence of standout DB Richard LeCounte, who was injured in a traffic accident, will not help. The Bulldogs' offense has been pedestrian at best, but

the Gators haven't exactly been rock solid on defense themselves. Florida LB Ventrell Miller and DB Shawn Davis will be primarily concerned with keeping Georgia RB Zamir White contained.

No. 25 Michigan at No. 13 Indiana

Saturday, noon ET, FSI

Few would have guessed that it would be the Hoosiers with the higher ranking in the third week of Big Ten competition. It is, in fact, Indiana's best position ever in the Amway Coaches Poll. The Wolverines, now in need of a season saver, aren't interested in letting the Hoosiers climb any higher.

After opening with an offensive show at Minnesota, the Wolverines' inability to mount anything consistent against Michigan State was stunning indeed. Expect QB Joe Milton to try opening things up right away with some deep shots, though he must be aware of CB Jaylin Williams, who has two of the Hoosiers' five interceptions. Indiana QB Michael Penix Jr. isn't the imposing physical specimen his Michigan counterpart is, but his knack for getting the ball to the right place serves him well. His main weapons are RB Stevie Scott III and WR Whop Philyor, who will

likely become well-acquainted with Wolverines DB Brad Hawkins.

Stanford at No. 14 Oregon

Saturday, 7:30 p.m. ET, ABC

At long last, the Pac-12 joins the fray in 2020. It seems unlikely that the league's abbreviated slate will allow its members to do enough to impress the playoff committee, but the conference favorite Ducks will try to make the most of this prime-time opportunity. Stanford has been a perennial nemesis for Oregon – the Cardinal came away with an overtime shocker in their last visit to Eugene two years ago. However, the 2019 campaign saw the two programs go in opposite directions.

With longtime starter Justin Herbert now taking snaps for the Chargers in the NFL, sophomore Tyler Shough or possibly grad transfer Anthony Brown will take over at quarterback for the Ducks. It will help that there are several talented and experienced running backs in support of the starter, led by C.J. Verdell. The Cardinal defense will be short on experience, but DE Thomas Booker can be disruptive. Stanford QB Davis Mills started several games last season when K.J. Costello, now with Mississippi

State, was injured and will keep the reins of the Cardinal offense. He has a deep group of receivers but will need time to find them, and Ducks DE Kayvon Thibodeaux wants to make sure he doesn't have it.

Arizona State at No. 20 Southern California

Saturday, noon ET, Fox

It will be an odd breakfast-time kickoff on the West Coast for these two Pac-12 South hopefuls, but everyone must be awake as neither can afford an early setback.

QB Kedon Slovis is back for his sophomore season with the Trojans. He proved to be a pleasant surprise when JT Daniels was injured in last year's opener and subsequently transferred to Georgia. Slovis won't be afraid to fire away, but his protectors must do a better job this year. Expect to see Sun Devils LB Darien Butler around the ball often. ASU also has an incumbent signal caller in Jayden Daniels. He was efficient as a freshman but might need to take more chances as he breaks in new targets. They'll be opposed by Talanoa Hufanga, who will lead an experienced Trojans' secondary.

Armour

Continued from Page 1C

changed history if the game or series ended before it was actually over:

Mickelson, 2006 U.S. Open

If ever there was a time for Lefty to win the U.S. Open, Winged Foot was it. He had won the previous two majors – the 2005 PGA Championship and the Masters – and his short game that week was spectacular. He began the fourth round tied for the lead and was ahead by a stroke on the 18th tee, needing just a par to win.

But his decision to hit driver off the tee set off a chain reaction of bad events, and Mickelson would wind up making a 6 on the hole and losing the Open to Geoff Ogilvy by one shot.

Atlanta Falcons, Super Bowl LI

With 8:31 left in the third quarter, Matt Ryan connected with Tevin Coleman for a touchdown that gave the Falcons a 28-3 lead. Atlanta's defense was smothering Tom Brady and the New England Patriots, and its offense had been both efficient and largely error-free.

What could possibly go wrong?

While the Falcons got tentative and sloppy, the Patriots scored on four consecutive drives to force overtime. They won the toss and went 75 yards for the score, sealing the biggest comeback in Super Bowl history and ensuring that Atlanta would forever be the butt of jokes.

Golden State, 2016 NBA Finals

A second consecutive title seemed like a given when the Warriors went up 3-1 on the Cleveland Cavaliers. They had



The Falcons had a 28-3 lead over the Patriots in Super Bowl LI only to lose in overtime. KEVIN JAJRAJ/USA TODAY SPORTS

beaten the Cavs in the Finals the previous season and were far and away the NBA's best team, having won a record 73 games during the regular season.

Plus, they were playing Cleveland, and everybody knows that city's teams are cursed. The Shot. The Drive. Art Modell. Jose Mesa.

But Cleveland native LeBron James dominated the next two games, as well as the final two minutes of Game 7, to give the Cavaliers a historic comeback. It was the first time an NBA team had come back after being down 3-1, and it was Cleveland's first title in 52 years.

Boston Red Sox, 2003 ALCS

Not only were the long-suffering Boston Red Sox five outs from reaching their first World Series since 1986, the pennant would come at the expense of the loathsome New York Yankees.

Though everyone could see Pedro Martinez was tiring – he'd given up three consecutive hits and had thrown 118 pitches – manager Grady Little decided to leave his ace in to face Jorge Posada. Sure enough, Posada tied the score up with a double and the Yankees went on to win in the 11th.

The poor judgment would cost Little

his job. But the Red Sox would end their 85-year World Series drought the following year.

Men's 4x100 freestyle relay, Beijing Olympics

France almost ended swimmer Michael Phelps' quest for a record eight gold medals at the Beijing Olympics as it was getting started.

In Phelps' second event, the relay, the Americans were trailing at the end of the third leg. Worse, anchor Jason Lezak was swimming against France's Alain Bernard, the previous world record holder at 100 meters, and he began the leg more than half a body length behind.

But Lezak chased Bernard down and then lunged ahead of the Frenchman at the finish, somehow managing to out-touch him to give the Americans a victory – and keep Phelps' gold medal goal on track.

Alabama-Auburn, 2013 Iron Bowl

Alabama was undefeated and an overwhelming favorite to win its third consecutive national title. All it had to do was get by Auburn.

After Auburn tied the score late in the

fourth quarter, the Crimson Tide got to the 38-yard line with – thanks to some haranguing of the refs by Nick Saban – one second left. Despite a long history of kicking mishaps, Alabama attempted a 56-yard field goal.

Welp.

The kick was short. Auburn's Chris Davis, who had parked himself near the goal line, caught the ball and sliced his way through a sea of Auburn and Alabama players, managing to elude everyone until he reached the opposite end zone. The 109-yard scoring run – technically he was only credited for 100 yards by the NCAA – not only stunned Alabama, it ended its national title hopes.

"I never got over the returned field goal at Auburn," Saban said recently.

Maximum Security, 2019 Kentucky Derby

Maximum Security was the wire-to-wire winner. Until he wasn't.

Stewards disqualified Maximum Security after the race, saying he had impeded two other horses when he veered out slightly as he came around the final turn. Maximum Security's owners sued – sound familiar? – but their lawsuit was tossed out.

Kentucky, 1992 East Regional final

The Wildcats forced overtime on Duke, the country's No. 1 team. Then, with 2.1 seconds left, Sean Woods gave Kentucky the lead with a one-handed layup over the country's most-hated player, Christian Laettner.

But you've all seen the video a million times now. You know how it goes.

Kentucky left Grant Hill unguarded on the inbound pass and didn't put anyone in front of Laettner at the other end of the floor. Hill heaved the ball to Laettner, who turned around and scored on a jumper as the buzzer sounded.

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Clemson

Continued from Page 1C

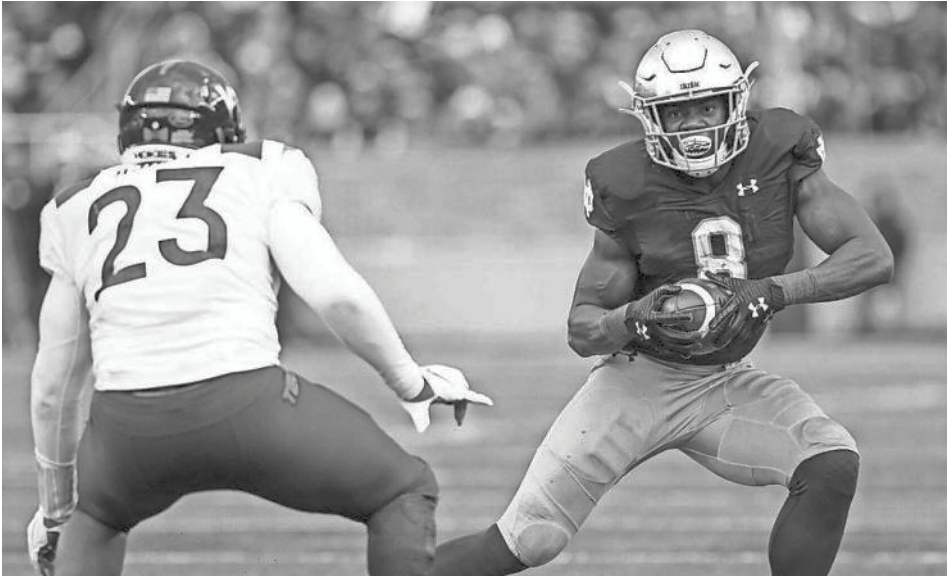
defensive tackle. I'll take their fourth defensive end. They're in pretty good shape.

"I do not wish COVID on them at all and I do not wish them any injuries. But they're going to put out a really good product with the other players that they have. We're going to be prepared for the No. 1 team in the country, and the guys they roll out, they're going to be pretty good."

Perhaps most important, the Tigers will still feature running back Travis Etienne. The 5-foot-10, 205-pound senior became Saturday the ACC's all-time leading rusher with 4,644 career yards. He also set the Football Bowl Subdivision record for games with a touchdown at 42 and counting.

"He's the best running back in the country, first of all," Kelly said of Etienne. "I'll go on record in saying that. Elite speed, tough inside-out runner, incredible out of the backfield. He's the complete package."

"When you're looking up complete running back in the dictionary, his picture and name should be there because



This week Notre Dame has moved running back Jafar Armstrong back to wide receiver, the position he was recruited to play. CHAD WEAVER/SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE

that's who he is. I don't know that there's a back that we've gone against – and we've gone against some great backs – that is as complete of a player as he is."

Only three players in the country with 100-plus carries are averaging more yards per carry than Etienne's 5.88 this season: Iowa State's Breece

Hall (6.72), Louisville's Javian Hawkins (6.18) and SMU's Ulysses Bentley IV (6.04).

In Notre Dame's 12-7 victory over Louisville last month, the Irish limited Hawkins to 3.4 yards per carry (15 carries for 51 yards).

Notre Dame kept Etienne in check for much of its 30-3 loss to Clemson in the

College Football Playoff semifinal in 2018, but his 62-yard touchdown run late in the third quarter helped bury the Irish. Etienne finished the game with 109 rushing yards and one touchdown on 14 carries.

If the Irish can limit Etienne on Saturday, it will put more pressure on freshman quarterback D.J. Uiagalelei. The former five-star recruit showed he could handle game pressure by leading the Tigers to a 34-28 victory over Boston College after trailing by 18 points in the second quarter.

The Eagles' defense played well in the first half, but it hasn't been as consistently stingy as Notre Dame's this season. The blueprint for the Irish against Uiagalelei, who finished 30 of 41 passing for 342 yards and two touchdowns with a 30-yard TD run in his starting debut, won't be much different than the blueprint against any talented quarterback.

"Whether you're a freshman or whether you're a senior, a lot of the axioms are still the same," Kelly said. "You don't want a quarterback to feel comfortable. For us defensively, get him out of a comfort zone. Don't let him in rhythm. Don't give him the easy throws that are comfortable for him and make him do some things that he doesn't want to do."

Wolken

Continued from Page 1C

teams in the Group of Five conferences, BYU has risen to No. 9 in the Amway Coaches Poll and enters its showdown against No. 23 Boise State on Friday (9:45 p.m. ET, FS1) with a 7-0 record. Should the Cougars win, they'd be favored to win their last two games, which might be enough to get them into a New Year's Six bowl game and secure their first top-10 finish in nearly a quarter-century.

Make no mistake: BYU is a very good team with a quarterback in Zach Wilson who has captured the imagination of NFL scouts this season and could very well factor into the Heisman Trophy discussion.

But the fact BYU's record, and to some extent its national acclaim, is also the product of a soft schedule has brought renewed focus on what kind of program fans actually want the Cougars to be.

"It's fun being relevant," said Matthew Best, a lifelong BYU fan and alum who lives about 10 minutes from LaVell Edwards Stadium in Orem, Utah. "We normally play a pretty tough schedule and haven't been part of the national conversation much. This year we are part of the conversation."

For BYU fans, much of the angst can be traced back to two seminal moments in the school's history: winning a national championship in 1984 and the conference realignment of 2010 when rival Utah got invited to the Pac-12 and the Cougars were left with a menu of unappetizing options. Those events are inextricably linked.

With an undeniably rich history of

success and a fan base that literally extends across the world due to its affiliation with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, getting left out in the cold while Utah got promoted to the Power Five was unacceptable for BYU fans and administrators. Instead of settling for a diminished Mountain West, BYU struck a lucrative deal with ESPN that would allow the Cougars to play football as an independent with lots of television exposure and the ability to schedule high-profile opponents. In essence, BYU has spent the last decade trying to keep up the appearance of being a national power while lacking the money or the access to the College Football Playoff it would have in a Power Five conference.

"I like seeing them play top competition because that's who BYU wants to be," said Dustin Chapman, who grew up in Ogden, Utah. "They want to be recognized as a Power Five school, maybe not quite (at the level of) Notre Dame, but they want to be in that group and feel like they have the pedigree to do that. It's probably not likely they'll get into a Power Five conference, so this is the road to go."

But the competitive price for going down that road is steep: The Cougars start every season facing the most ridiculously front-loaded schedule in the country. Just last year, BYU opened with Utah, Tennessee, Southern California and Washington before finally getting a "breather" on the road against Toledo. In 2018, BYU played Arizona, California, Wisconsin and Washington, all in September.

Nobody else chooses to schedule that way because it's insanity. Even if BYU performs well in September – and it has won several of those games – the Cougars are fortunate to go into a typical Oc-



BYU's Blake Freeland and Zach Wilson celebrate in the win against Western Kentucky. RICK BOWMER/POOL PHOTO

tober with a .500 record, not to mention the physical wear and tear sustained by playing those types of teams.

"Without a conference the only way to quantify relevance is being in the top 25," Jordan said. "So how do you get in the top 25? Even if you go 2-2, it's hard to sustain that. I believe BYU is a Power Five quality program and in a good year probably in the upper crust, but in order to really make a statement, BYU needs a model that probably suits them better. ... What happens when BYU plays a winnable schedule? They're in the top 10 and at the forefront of every conversation."

Everyone understands this year is an extreme outlier. Because teams in the Big Ten, Southeastern and Pac-12 decid-

ed not to play non-conference games, BYU went from a schedule that would have started with Utah, Michigan State, Arizona State, Minnesota and Missouri in the first six weeks to a schedule in which Navy, Army and Houston were the marquee games up until this week.

BYU has been dominant against that schedule, amassing an average victory margin of 31 points. That's given BYU fans a fresh perspective on what life might be like if the school took a different approach.

"Long term, this year has been fun, but I wouldn't want it to be the new normal," said Chad Cluff, a fan from Eagle Mountain, Utah.

None of these issues is easy to balance. For a lot of reasons, including continued television cachet and credibility, BYU has to play tough games. And those aren't always easy to schedule. The pool of Power Five programs willing to play a quality non-conference opponent in October and November isn't that big in any given year.

But next season, for instance, BYU is scheduled to open with three Pac-12 opponents and then face Baylor, Washington State, Virginia, USC as well as Boise State later on. The likelihood of another 7-0 start and appearance in the top 10 seems pretty distant.

"BYU's philosophy has always been we want to play the best teams in the country, the best teams we can get so we know where we stand," said Rachel Konishi, a lifelong BYU fan and graduate who lives in Salt Lake City.

Right now, regardless of the competition, BYU is standing pretty tall with one big test to pass this Friday. It might not be the plan or the philosophy that the school or its fans wants to execute for its football program. But in this one-off, unusual year, it sure has been effective.

Spieth falls back on risk holes

Tim Schmitt

Golfweek | USA TODAY Network

HOUSTON – Jordan Spieth certainly looked in his element back in his home state of Texas. Same old Jordan.

The three-time major champ went off early at the Vivint Houston Open on Thursday, and his final tuneup before the Masters started with what has become a familiar pattern for Spieth – alternating amazing and horrific shots.

Unfortunately for him, the latter took hold on the back nine, and Spieth – who was atop the leaderboard after 12 holes – played the final six in an unsightly 6 over to fall near the bottom of the standings after the tournament's first day. While fellow Texan Scottie Scheffler took quickly to a renovated Memorial Park Golf Course, hosting its first PGA Tour event since 1963, Spieth blew up with a 40 on the back in another puzzling display from the 2015 Masters champ.

The course, renovated by noted architect Tom Doak with input from Brooks Koepka, has an interesting stretch on the back that includes a number of risk-reward holes.

Spieth risked. On all of them.



Spieth

He wasn't rewarded.

After the round, he said he didn't notice a drastic contrast between the two nines, even though his scores differed.

"It's just got – similar to the front, not a whole lot different. The last, well, 15, 16, 17 are where you can make some birdies, but you can also get into some trouble," Spieth said. "So some risk-reward when you're attacking stuff or whether you are or not on those few holes. The rest of the holes are very similar to the front."

Spieth hasn't cracked the top 35 in the first four events of the new season, missing cuts at the Safeway Open and U.S. Open. He finished T-38 at the CJ Cup and T-41 at the Zozo Championship and has slipped to 75th in the Official World Golf Ranking and 99th in the Golfweek/Sagarin rankings.

But while he recovered from some mistakes on the front, the bottom fell out on the back – Spieth missed the green on the short No. 13 and posted a bogey; pulled his drive on No. 14 into the left rough and made another bogey; and pulled his shot on

the par-3 15th to the left, taking a double after chipping over and back.

And he saved the day's wild-est ride for the 17th hole, a 384-yard par 4 in which Spieth's drive hooked so badly it was off the official Shotlink system provided by the PGA Tour. Spieth took a drop since the drive came to rest on a cart path, then plopped his second shot in the water behind the green. He finished 17 with his second double-bogey in just three holes.

"I think every time Jordan hit it in the water, he told me that was my fault," said Koepka, who also struggled to a 2-over 72 while playing with Spieth and Lanto Griffin on the course he helped craft. "So I'm pretty sure every bad shot will be my fault. ... I'll take that."

Scheffler continued his steady play, shooting a smooth 67, with no bogeys until the 18th hole. He has made the cut in all five of his previous starts in the state of Texas, where he currently lives and previously attended the University of Texas.

He was tied with Cam Davis, Michael Thompson, Harold Varner III and Carlos Ortiz for second two behind early leader Brandt Snedeker.

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AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	6	2	0	.750	198	199
Miami	4	3	0	.571	188	130
New England	2	5	0	.286	136	167
N.Y. Jets	0	8	0	.000	94	238

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	5	2	0	.714	198	136
Tennessee	5	2	0	.714	208	184
Houston	1	6	0	.143	166	217
Jacksonville	1	6	0	.143	154	220

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	7	0	0	1.000	211	142
Baltimore	5	2	0	.714	203	132
Cleveland	5	3	0	.625	206	237
Cincinnati	2	5	1	.313	194	214

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	7	1	0	.875	253	152
Las Vegas	4	3	0	.571	187	203
Denver	3	4	0	.429	147	183
L.A. Chargers	2	5	0	.286	179	185

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	3	4	1	.438	186	205
Washington	2	5	0	.286	133	165
Dallas	2	6	0	.250	185	266
N.Y. Giants	1	7	0	.125	145	199

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	6	2	0	.750	247	165
New Orleans	5	2	0	.714	206	197
Carolina	3	5	0	.375	179	193
Atlanta	2	6	0	.250	209	224

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	5	2	0	.714	219	187
Chicago	3	3	0	.625	161	166
Detroit	3	4	0	.429	177	206
Minnesota	2	5	0	.286	183	214

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	6	1	0	.857	240	199
Arizona	5	2	0	.714	203	146
L.A. Rams	5	3	0	.625	193	152
San Francisco	4	4	0	.500	208	173

Thursday's Game
Green Bay at San Francisco
Sunday's Games
Baltimore at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Kansas City, 1 p.m.

Chicago at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Denver at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Houston at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Washington, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Las Vegas at L.A. Chargers, 4:05 p.m.
Miami at Arizona, 4:25 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Dallas, 4:25 p.m.
New Orleans at Tampa Bay, 8:20 p.m.
Open: Cincinnati, Cleveland, L.A. Rams, Philadelphia
Monday's Game
New England at N.Y. Jets, 8:15 p.m.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Wednesday's scores
Buffalo 49, N. Illinois 30
Cent. Michigan 30, Ohio 27
Kent St. 27, E. Michigan 23
Miami (Ohio) 38, Ball St. 31
Toledo 38, Bowling Green 3
W. Michigan 58, Akron 13

SOCCER

English Premier League

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Liverpool	7	5	1	1	17	15	16
Leicester	7	5	0	2	17	9	15
Tottenham	7	4	2	1	18	9	14
Everton	7	4	1	2	15	11	13
Southampton	7	4	1	2	14	12	13
Wolverhampton	7	4	1	2	8	8	13
Chelsea	7	3	3	1	16	9	12
Aston Villa	6	4	0	2	15	9	12
Arsenal	7	4	0	3	9	7	12
Man City	6	3	2	1	9	8	11
Newcastle	7	3	2	2	10	11	11
Leeds	7	3	1	3	13	10	10
Crystal Palace	7	3	1	3	8	11	10
West Ham	7	2	2	3	13	10	8
Man United	6	2	1	3	9	13	7
Brighton	7	1	2	4	11	14	5
Fulham	7	1	1	5	7	14	4
West Brom	7	0	3	4	6	16	3
Sheffield Utd	7	0	1	6	3	10	1
Burnley	6	0	1	5	3	12	1

Friday's Games
Brighton vs. Burnley, 12:30 p.m.
Southampton vs. Newcastle, 3 p.m.
Saturday's Games
Everton vs. Man United, 7:30 a.m.
Crystal Palace vs. Leeds, 10 a.m.
Chelsea vs. Sheffield United, 12:30 p.m.
West Ham vs. Fulham, 3 p.m.

Sunday's Games

West Brom vs. Tottenham, 7 a.m.
Leicester vs. Wolverhampton, 9 a.m.
Man City vs. Liverpool, 11:30 a.m.
Arsenal vs. Aston Villa, 2:15 p.m.

MLS

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-Philadelphia	13	4	5	44	42	20
x-Toronto FC	13	4	5	44	32	24
x-Orlando City	11	3	8	41	38	22
x-Columbus	11	6	5	38	34	20
x-N.Y. City FC	11	8	3	36	33	22
x-New England	8	6	8	32	26	23
x-New York	8	9	5	29	27	30
x-Nashville	7	7	8	29	21	20
Montreal	7	13	2	23	30	41
Chicago	5	9	8	23	30	35
Atlanta	6	12	4	22	22	28
Inter Miami CF	6	13	3	21	23	34
D.C. United	5	11	6	21	23	38
Cincinnati	4	14	4	16	11	34

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-Portland	11	6	5	38	45	34
x-Sporting KC	11	6	3	36	36	25
x-Seattle	10	5	6	36	40	22
x-FC Dallas	9	5	7	34	28	21
x-Los Angeles FC	9	8	4	31	46	38
x-Minnesota	8	5	7	31	33	26
x-San Jose	8	8	6	30	34	47
x-Colorado	7	6	4	25	30	27
Vancouver	8	14	0	24	24	44
LA Galaxy	6	11	4	22	27	43
Real Salt Lake	5	9	7	22	25	33
Houston	4	9	9	21	29	38

NOTE: For the 2020 season, MLS will determine standings using points per game.
Wednesday's Games
Orlando City 2, Columbus 1
Chicago 2, Minnesota 2, tie
FC Dallas 1, Nashville 0
Colorado 1, Portland 0
Seattle 1, LA Galaxy 1, tie
San Jose 3, Los Angeles FC 2
Sunday's Games
New York City FC at Chicago, 3:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Columbus, 3:30 p.m.
Montreal at D.C. United, 3:30 p.m.
Cincinnati at Miami, 3:30 p.m.
Toronto FC at New York, 3:30 p.m.
Nashville at Orlando City, 3:30 p.m.
New England at Philadelphia, 3:30 p.m.
Colorado at Houston, 6:30 p.m.
Portland at Los Angeles FC, 6:30 p.m.
FC Dallas at Minnesota, 6:30 p.m.
Sporting KC at Real Salt Lake, 6:30 p.m.
San Jose at Seattle, 6:30 p.m.
LA Galaxy at Vancouver, 6:30 p.m.

SOUTHRN CAL	7%	10%	57	Arizona St	9	8	51	Stanford
OREGON	+3	2	65%	Washington St	13%	11	58	UNLV
Fresno St	17	17%	57	Texas State	17%	18	64%	South Florida
MEMPHIS	37	38	63	Kansas	9%	8%	61%	Texas Tech
OKLAHOMA	9%	12%	46%	KANSAS ST	7	6%	54%	West Virginia
TCU	4	3	55	Nebraska	6	3	52	Florida
OKLAHOMA ST	4	4	46	Utah	5	4%	64%	MID TENN
TEXAS	16	19	44	Vanderbilt	13	14	68	Arkansas St
NORTHWESTRN	15%	15%	62%	New Mexico	11%	6%	39%	W Kentucky
Georgia	8	10	58%	S CAROLINA	3	5	50%	NOTRE DAME
RICE	1	2	52%	ARKANSAS	43	45	55	UMass
Charlotte	5	4%	64%					
MISSISSIPPI ST	13	14	68					
LA-LAFAYETTE	15%	15%	62%					
HAWAII	15%	15%	62%					
FAU	11%	6%	39%					
Texas A&M	8	10	58%					
Clemson	3	5	50%					
Tennessee	1	2	52%					
MARSHALL	43	45	55					

Odss are subject to change. BetMGM.com does not offer lines for New Jersey-based college sports teams. Gannett may earn revenue from audience referrals to betting services. Newsrooms are independent of this relationship and there is no influence on news coverage.

GOLF

European Tour Aphrodite Hills Cyprus Showdown
At Aphrodite Hills Resort, Paphos, Cyprus
Purse: \$1.2 million
Yardage: 6,878; Par: 71
First Round Suspended for Darkness (Three players DNF Round)
Robert Macintyre, Scotland33-32-65 (-6)
Romain Langasque, France33-33-66 (-5)
Joakim Lagergren, Sweden33-33-66 (-5)
Ashun Wu, China34-32-66 (-5)
Rikard Karlberg, Sweden34-32-66 (-5)
Sami Valimaki, Finland35-31-66 (-5)
Thomas Detry, Belgium31-35-66 (-5)
Jamie Donaldson, Wales35-31-66 (-5)
David Horsey, England34-33-67 (-4)
Joost Luiten, Netherlands37-30-67 (-4)
S. G. Rodriguez, Spain33-34-67 (-4)
Alexander Levy, France33-34-67 (-4)
J. Veerman, United States34-33-67 (-4)
Masahiro Kawamura, Japan33-34-67 (-4)
Shubhankar Sharma, India34-33-67 (-4)
James Morrison, England36-32-68 (-3)
Benjamin Hebert, France35-33-68 (-3)
Nacho Elvira, Spain32-36-68 (-3)
Louis De Jager, South Africa35-33-68 (-3)
Sjors Olsson, Sweden35-33-68 (-3)
Alexander Bjork, Sweden35-33-68 (-3)
Pablo Larrazabal, Spain35-33-68 (-3)
Daan Huizing, Netherlands35-33-68 (-3)
Grant Labadie, Scotland35-33-68 (-3)
Steven Brown, England32-36-68 (-3)
Marcus Kinhult, Sweden32-36-68 (-3)
Callum Shinkwin, England33-35-68 (-3)
Richard Bland, England36-33-69 (-2)
Oliver Wilson, England38-31-69 (-2)

TENNIS

ATP World Tour Paris Masters At Palais Omnisports de Paris-Bercy, Paris
Purse: €3,343,725
Surface: Hardcourt indoor
Singles- Round of 16
Diego Schwartzman (6), Argentina, def. Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, Spain, 6-1, 6-1; Milos Raonic (10), Canada, def. Marcos Giron, United States, 7-6 (1), 6-2; Daniil Medvedev (3), Russia, def. Alex de Minaur (16), Australia, 5-7, 6-2, 6-2; Ugo Humbert, France, def. Marin Cilic, Croatia, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-3; Pablo Carreno Busta (9), Spain, def. Norbert Gombos, Slovakia, 7-5, 6-2; Rafael Nadal (1), Spain, def. Jordan Thompson, Australia, 6-1, 7-6 (3); Alexander Zverev (4), Germany, def. Adrian Mannarino, France, 7-6 (11), 6-7 (7), 6-4.

DEALS

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES – Acquired INFs A.J. Graf-fanino and Greg Cullen from Atlanta to complete the trade for LHP Tommy Milone.
National League
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES – Acquired RHP Rodolfo Sanchez from Tampa Bay to complete the Aug. 18 Edgar Garcia trade.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
BALTIMORE RAVENS – Activated OLB Mat-

thew Judon from the reserve/COVID-19 list. BUFFALO BILLS – Activated TE Dawson Knox from the reserve/COVID-19 list. CAROLINA PANTHERS – Activated DE Yetur Gross-Matos from injured reserve. CLEVELAND BROWNS – Promoted LB Elijah Lee to the active roster. Released C Evan Brown. GREEN BAY PACKERS – Promoted S Henry Black, CB Stanford Samuels and RB Dexter Williams to the active roster as COVID-19 replacements. Promoted G Ben Braden to the active roster from practice squad. LAS VEGAS RAIDERS – Activated CB Damon Arnette to return from injured reserve. Placed OT Trent Brown on the reserve/COVID-19 list. Promoted RB Theo Riddick to the active roster. MIAMI DOLPHINS – Placed RB Myles Gaskin on injured reserve. SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS – Promoted G Tony Bergstrom and RB Austin Walter from the practice squad to the active roster. Activated WRs River Cracraft and Kevin White, S Johnathan Cyprien, TE Daniel Helm to the active roster. Signed DT Josiah Coatney to the practice squad. Released WR Chris Finke. Activated TE Jordan Reed from injured reserve. Placed QB Jimmy Garoppolo and TE George Kittle on injured reserve. TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS – Re-signed WR Cy-ril Grayson to the practice squad. Released WR John Hurst. TENNESSEE TITANS – Signed LS Matt Orzech from the Miami practice squad. WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM – Signed LB Justin Phillips to the practice squad. **HOCKEY**
National Hockey League
WINNIPEG JETS – Signed F Marko Dano to a one-year, two-way contract.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL WEEKEND TV GAMES

Friday on TV (times p.m. Eastern unless noted)	Time/TV	Surface	BetMGM.com line	Sagarin difference
Matchup				
No. 10 Miami (5-1) at North Carolina State (4-2)	7:30/ESPN	Grass	Miami by 10½	Miami by 6.15
San Jose State (2-0) at San Diego State (2-0)	9/CBSN	Grass	SDSU by 9½	SDSU by 12.43
No. 9 BYU (7-0) at No. 23 Boise State (2-0)	9:45/FS1	Artificial	BYU by 3	BYU by 1.49
Saturday on TV				
Air Force (1-2) at No. 22 Army (6-1)	11:30 a.m./CBS	Artificial	Army by 5½	Army by 2.31
No. 25 Michigan (1-1) at No. 13 Indiana (2-0)	Noon/FS1	Artificial	Michigan by 3	Indiana by 4.65
Arizona State (0-0) at No. 20 Southern California (0-0)	Noon/Fox	Grass	USC by 10½	USC by 6.57
No. 24 North Carolina (4-2) at Duke (2-5)	Noon/ESPN2	Grass	UNC by 11½	UNC by 8.48
West Virginia (4-2) at Texas (4-2)	Noon/ABC	Artificial	Texas by 6½	Texas by 7.64
Liberty (6-0) at Virginia Tech (4-2)	Noon/ACC	Grass	VT by 14½	VT by 18.16
Nebraska (0-1) at Northwestern (2-0)	Noon/BTN	Grass	Northwestern by 3½	Northwestern by 3.99
Michigan State (1-1) at Iowa (0-2)	Noon/ESPN	Artificial	Iowa by 6½	Iowa by 6.89
Arkansas State (3-4) at Louisiana-Lafayette (5-1)	Noon/ESPNU	Artificial	ULL by 14	ULL by 14.95
No. 5 Georgia (4-1) vs. No. 8 Florida (3-1) in Jacksonville	3:30/CBS	Grass	Georgia by 3½	Georgia by 5.93
Houston (2-2) at No. 6 Cincinnati (5-0)	3:30/ABC	Artificial	Cincinnati by 13½	Cincinnati by 15.39
Kansas (0-6) at No. 19 Oklahoma (4-2)	3:30/ESPN	Grass	Oklahoma by 37½	Oklahoma by 37.56
Minnesota (0-2) at Illinois (0-2)	3:30/BTN	Artificial	Minnesota by 7	Minnesota by 1.20
Maryland (1-1) at Penn State (0-2)	3:30/BTN	Grass	PSU by 25	PSU by 32.90
Fresno State (1-1) at UNLV (0-2)	3:30/CBSN	Artificial	Fresno by 11	Fresno by 2.38
Arizona (0-0) at Utah (0-0)	3:30/ESPN2	Artificial	Utah by 14	Utah by 13.58
Texas Tech (2-4) at TCU (2-3)	3:30/FS1	Grass	TCU by 9	TCU by 11.02
Vanderbilt (0-4) at Mississippi State (1-4)	3:30/SEC	Grass	Miss State by 18½	Miss State by 18.07
No. 12 Oklahoma State (4-1) at Kansas State (4-2)	4/Fox	Artificial	Ok. State by 12½	Ok. State by 7.90
Pittsburgh (3-4) at Florida State (2-4)	4/ACC	Grass	Florida State by 1½	Pitt by 6.72
No. 7 Texas A&M (4-1) at South Carolina (2-3)	7/ESPN	Grass	TAMU by 10½	TAMU by 6.49
Baylor (1-3) at No. 17 Iowa State (4-2)	7/FS1	Grass	ISU by 13½	ISU by 9.04
Louisiana Tech (4-3) at North Texas (2-3)	7/CBSN	Artificial	North Texas by 2	LT by 9.00
UCLA (0-0) at Colorado (0-0)	7/ESPN2	Artificial	UCLA by 6½	UCLA by 2.83
No. 1 Clemson (7-0) at No. 4 Notre Dame (6-0)	7:30/NBC	Artificial	Clemson by 5	Clemson by 9.13
Rutgers (1-1) at No. 3 Ohio State (2-0)	7:30/BTN	Artificial	NA	Ohio State by 40.93
Stanford (0-0) at No. 14 Oregon (0-0)	7:30/ABC	Artificial	Oregon by 7½	Oregon by 13.27
Tennessee (2-3) at Arkansas (2-3)	7:30/SEC	Artificial	Tennessee by 1½	Arkansas by 0.08
South Alabama (3-3) at No. 16 Coastal Carolina (6-0)	8/ESPNU	Artificial	Coastal by 17½	Coastal by 17.08
Washington State (0-0) at Oregon State (0-0)	10:30/FS1	Artificial	Oregon State by 1½	WSU by 2.58
Other ranked teams in action (check local listings)				
Massachusetts (0-1) at No. 15 Marshall (5-0)	2:30	Artificial	Marshall by 44½	Marshall by 51.55
No. 18 SMU (6-1) at Temple (1-3)	Noon	Grass	SMU by 18½	SMU by 14.41

Rest of the top 25: No. 11 Wisconsin's game versus Purdue is canceled. No. 2 Alabama and No. 21 Auburn are idle.
Jeff Sagarin's power ratings show the relative strength of teams. Where applicable, 1.87 points are added to the home team's rating to calculate the difference.

WEATHER WEATHER ONLINE USATODAY.COM

WEEKEND FORECAST

While sunshine and unseasonably warm air will extend from **New Mexico** and **Texas** to **Minnesota** and **Maine**

NASCAR

CHAMPIONSHIP WEEKEND

On tap at Phoenix Raceway

Cup Series: NASCAR Cup Series Championship (3 ET Sunday, NBC) Championship 4: Joey Logano, Chase Elliott, Brad Keselowski, Denny Hamlin

XFINITY Series: Desert Diamond Casino West Valley 200 (5 ET Saturday, NBCSN)

Championship 4: Chase Briscoe, Justin Allgaier, Justin Haley, Austin Cindric

Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series: Lucas Oil 150 (8 ET Friday, FS1)

Championship 4: Sheldon Creed, Grant Enfinger, Brett Moffitt, Zane Smith

Speed Freaks

Q: Will the Phoenix winner be one of the final four playoff drivers?

GODSPEAK (Godwin Kelly): Kevin Harvick will attack with a vengeance after missing the title round.

KEN'S CALL (Ken Willis): It's tempting to say no, given Harvick's record, but leaning toward Brad Keselowski.

Ken Willis' Top 10 drivers

1. Kevin Harvick: 9 wins overshadow late slump
2. Chase Elliott: On a roll
3. Joey Logano: See Elliott
4. Brad Keselowski: Can he tap keg one more time?
5. Alex Bowman: Never has a bad race anymore
6. Kyle Busch: Kez's ironic savior at Martinsville
7. Ryan Blaney: Ending with solid finishes
8. Martin Truex Jr.: 2nd title on hold
9. Denny Hamlin: Out of sorts since 'Dega win
10. Kurt Busch: 3 top-7s in past month

Daytona Motor Mouths

One more mile to go in a crazy season, but our guys never hit the exit ramp. The Daytona Beach News-Journal's Godwin Kelly & Ken Willis have covered NASCAR for more than 70 years combined. godwin.kelly@news-jrnl.com and ken.willis@news-jrnl.com



Joey Logano, No. 22 Ford: The 2018 Cup Series champion has two Phoenix wins, in March and in 2016. He has five top-5 finishes and 12 top-10s in 23 Phoenix starts.

STEVE HELBER/POOL PHOTO



Chase Elliott, No. 9 Chevrolet: In nine races at Phoenix, he has two top-5s and five top-10s, and his best finish was second in 2017. In the spring race, he was seventh.

RICHARD W. RODRIGUEZ/AP



Brad Keselowski, No. 2 Ford: The 2012 Cup Series champion's best finish at Phoenix was second in the fall 2018 race. He has six top-5s and 10 top-10s in 22 Phoenix races.

MIKE DINOVO/USA TODAY SPORTS



Denny Hamlin, No. 11 Toyota: He has two wins at Phoenix, the most recent in fall 2019. In 30 starts at the track, he has 13 top-5s and 17 top-10s; in March he finished 20th.

GERRY BROOME/POOL PHOTO

PHOENIX Through the Gears

The Fab Four vying for the NASCAR Cup Series championship this year will be Joey Logano, Denny Hamlin, Brad Keselowski and Chase Elliott, who had a walk-off win at Martinsville Speedway.

Since this knockout playoff format was introduced in 2014, Homestead-Miami Speedway has hosted the series final. That honor falls to Phoenix Raceway this year. Phoenix had NASCAR's last "regular" race on March 8 before the COVID-19 pandemic shut everything down the following week. NASCAR racing resumed on May 17 after the sanctioning body started cobbling races together in order to sync up for its 10-race playoff schedule.

Time to kick the tires and light the fires one more time ...

First gear: Regular-season champion Kevin Harvick made a good point about the current playoff format, which went from a season-long points count in 2003 to a playoff formula in 2004. "They aren't won the same way that Earn-

hardt and Petty did," said Harvick, who has a series-leading nine wins this season but finished 17th at Martinsville, allowing Keselowski to jump him in points and snag the last Championship Four race slot. "That's the system that we work in and it's obviously skewed more towards entertainment."

Second gear: Every champion since 2014 has won the last race of the season, but that is not required. The highest finishing driver of the four eligible for the title wins the crown. Phoenix, a flat 1-mile oval, races more like a short track than a speedway, which could make for a race of survival. The champion might well be the last car on the lead lap or a lap down.

Third gear: If Hamlin wins the championship, he will join an elite group of drivers who won the Daytona 500 and title in the same year. Lee Petty did it in 1959 (the year Daytona International Speedway opened), then his son Richard did it four times. Cale Yarborough got a double in 1977, followed by Jeff Gordon (1997) and Jimmie Johnson (2006, '13).

Fourth gear: Hamlin seems destined to win the title. He probably should have won in 2019, but during a late pit stop at Homestead his pit crew put a ridiculously huge piece of tape on his grille, which overheated his engine. Hamlin won the fall Phoenix race last season. "I think we can win any given week for sure," he said. "One race, winner take all, you never know."

— Godwin Kelly
Caption information by For The Win's Michelle Martinelli

NFL WEEK 9 WEEKEND GAME PREVIEWS

Giants (1-7) at Washington (2-5)

Sunday, 1 ET, Fox
BetMGM.com line: Washington by 2 ½
Giants' keys: As in the first game, take advantage of chunk plays.

Washington's keys: Rely on DEs Montez Sweat and Chase Young to wreak havoc up front and force the Giants into mistakes. Give RB Antonio Gibson a bigger share of the workload.

Who wins? Washington 20-16
— Zachary Neel, Washington Wire

Ravens (5-2) at Colts (5-2)

Sunday, 1 ET, CBS
BetMGM.com line: Ravens by 1
Colts' keys: If LT Anthony Castonzo and the rest of the offensive line keeps QB Philip Rivers clean, the Colts can take some of the pressure off by getting rookie RB Jonathan Taylor going. On defense, DTs DeForest Buckner and Grover Stewart must contain the Ravens' ground game.

Ravens' keys: Get QB Lamar Jackson into open space to run. The Colts' defense has been susceptible to quarterbacks making plays outside the pocket. The Ravens' defense will want to stack the box against Taylor because Rivers' lack of mobility will play to Baltimore's strength on defense.

Who wins? Ravens 29-20
— Kevin Hickey, Colts Wire

Panthers (3-5) at Chiefs (7-1)

Sunday, 1 ET, Fox
BetMGM.com line: Chiefs by 10 ½
Chiefs' keys: Expect coach Andy Reid to flash creative looks and use motion to get Carolina's defense off balance and force it into mental mistakes. .
Panthers' keys: Feed the run game, against which the Chiefs' defense has struggled. RB Christian McCaffrey should return from injury this week.

Who wins? Chiefs 37-14
— Charles Goldman, Chiefs Wire

Bears (5-3) at Titans (5-2)

Sunday, 1 ET, Fox
BetMGM.com line: Titans by 6 ½
Titans' keys: Contain Chicago's lethal pass rush, featuring OLB Khalil Mack and DT Akiem Hicks. That starts with getting RB Derrick Henry going. On defense, keep the Bears' offense one-

dimensional by shutting down RB David Montgomery.

Bears' keys: Stop Henry, who can slow a pass rush and open up play-action. On offense, attack the Titans' secondary.

Who wins? Titans 24-20
— Mike Moraitis, Titans Wire

Broncos (3-4) at Falcons (2-6)

Sunday, 1 ET, CBS
BetMGM.com line: Falcons by 4
Broncos' keys: Establish the running game. If Denver can run the ball early, it will give QB Drew Lock easy play-action opportunities to get WRs Jerry Jeudy and Tim Patrick the ball in space.
Falcons' keys: Score TDs in the red zone instead of settling for field goals. Defensively, stop the run and forcing Lock into third-and-long The Broncos can't win by relying on their passing game.

Who wins? Falcons 17-14
— Matt Urban, Falcons Wire

Lions (3-4) at Vikings (2-5)

Sunday, 1 ET, CBS
BetMGM.com line: Vikings by 4
Vikings' keys: Get WRs Adam Thielen and Justin Jefferson heavily involved. When QB Kirk Cousins can find both, the offense puts up a lot of points.
Lions' keys: Detroit has a menacing offensive attack that should spell trouble for a struggling Minnesota secondary. (WR Kenny Golladay left the Week 8 game with a hip injury.) If Detroit's pass rush gets to Cousins, players like S Duron Harmon and CB Jeff Okudah will have ample opportunities for interceptions.

Who wins? Lions 34-24
— Jack White, Vikings Wire

Texans (1-6) at Jaguars (1-6)

Sunday, 1 ET, CBS
BetMGM.com line: Texans by 7
Texans' keys: Feed RB David Johnson against one of the worst run defenses. In the last meeting versus the Jaguars, he had 17 carries for 96 yards.
Jaguars' keys: Rookie Jake Luton will start in place of injured Gardner Minshew (thumb). The sixth-round pick from Oregon State has yet to face a live NFL rush. On defense, the Jags might need to go a little heavier with blitzing.

Who wins? Texans 31-17
— James Johnson, Jaguars Wire

Seahawks (6-1) at Bills (6-2)

Sunday, 1 ET, Fox
BetMGM.com line: Seahawks by 3
Seahawks' keys: If there's a game for Seattle to play complementary football on offense, it's this one. The Bills' defensive front has struggled to cover its gaps against the run all year, so if RB Chris Carson gets a decent workload, things will open up for QB Russell Wilson. Defensively, the way to slow QB Josh Allen after his hot start has been to take away his No. 1 option, WR Stefon Diggs.
Bills' keys: Buffalo should have no problem getting Allen going against the Seahawks' secondary. While getting the ball to Diggs has been a key, the Bills should use WR John Brown to open things up for Diggs and the offense.

Who wins? Seahawks 31-27
— Nick Wojton, Bills Wire

Raiders (4-3) at Chargers (2-5)

Sunday, 4:05 ET, Fox
BetMGM.com line: Chargers by 1
Raiders' keys: Put stress on a struggling Chargers run defense with RB Josh Jacobs. The Raiders have been gashed in the trenches and missed tackles have been an ongoing issue. That would then open up the passing game.
Chargers' keys: Stay balanced. LA is coming off a season-high performance on the ground (210 yards). That would force the Raiders to have to worry about the running game while trying to hone in on QB Justin Herbert.

Who wins? Raiders 28-24
— Gavino Borquez, Chargers Wire

Dolphins (4-3) at Cardinals (5-2)

Sunday, 4:25 ET, CBS
BetMGM.com line: Cardinals by 4 ½
Dolphins' keys: Rookie QB Tua Tagovailoa will have to do more than when he threw for 93 yards on 22 attempts in his first career start. The defense took the ball away from the Rams four times last weekend and will need more of that.
Cardinals' keys: They benefit from coming off their bye week and now have film on Tagovailoa. The Cardinals should be able to run the ball with RB Chase Edmonds and QB Kyler Murray.

Who wins? Cardinals 34-17
— Jess Root, Cards Wire

Steelers (7-0) at Cowboys (2-6)

Sunday, 4:25 ET, CBS
BetMGM.com line: Steelers by 13 ½
Steelers' keys: Edge defender T.J. Watt should have a field day working against the Cowboys' tackles. On offense, QB Ben Roethlisberger will have time to step up into the pocket and find rookie WR Chase Claypool against a secondary that too often gets caught with its eyes in the backfield.
Cowboys' keys: Their offensive stars must shine at the same time, which has been rare this season.

Who wins? Steelers 37-17
— K.D. Drummond, Cowboys Wire

Saints (5-2) at Buccaneers (6-2)

Sunday, 8:20 ET, NBC
BetMGM.com line: Buccaneers by 4
Bucs' keys: Pressure QB Drew Brees; the Bucs have already bottled up some of the best running backs in the league, including Alvin Kamara in Week 1. Tampa Bay's talented pass catchers must make big plays.
Saints' keys: New Orleans beat the Buccaneers in Week 1 by taking advantage of their mistakes, so the Saints will have to force them into more of the same. Even if WR Michael Thomas is active for the first time since Week 1, he's not likely to be at full strength, which means others like TE Jared Cook will have to step up.

Who wins? Bucs 31-27
— Luke Easterling, Bucs Wire

Patriots (2-5) at Jets (0-8)

Monday, 8:15 ET, ESPN
BetMGM.com line: Patriots by 7 ½
Patriots' keys: New England QB Cam Newton still has the ability to change a game with his legs, and the Jets, meanwhile, have struggled mightily against the run.
Jets' keys: DT Quinnen Williams has been a disruptor in the backfield but has not had much help. WR Denzel Mims and RB La'Mical Perine, both rookies, have looked strong and should continue to be featured.

Who wins? Patriots 20-10
— Gary Phillips, Jets Wire

Bye week: Cincinnati, Cleveland, LA Rams, Philadelphia

Jimmie's meant a lot to me throughout my career. Not only is he a great teammate, but he's a friend and someone I look up to off the track too. He's one of the good guys. #JimmieTribute A. Bowman • Thx JJ for representing Chevrolet so well on and off the track! Mickey Thompson Stadium Truck series, SCORE Off-Road series, Short-Course SODA Off-Road Series, ASA, NASCAR Busch and NASCAR Cup series! 83 Cup victories, 7X Cup Champion. Jimmie Johnson: Racer, Champion, Partner, Friend! J. Campbell • One of my favorite memories was watching @JimmieJohnson hold off @JeffGordonWeb for the win at @MartinsvilleSwy in the spring 2007 race. It was an incredible battle in those last laps. #JimmieTribute W. Byron • #JimmieTribute Seeing him lead the 5-wide salute at Daytona and seeing the fans give him the praise he deserves. D. Barbier • JJ will always be my NASCAR Hero. #JimmieTribute #ItsBristolBaby N. Blount • You mean like when you & I followed him behind his hauler and we got in trouble from his PR person? Yet, Jimmie still came over to me and signed my diecast for me? That was awesome!! Truly I do have a lot of great memories of Jimmie. I have to think which one to use. R. Hudson • I've seen Jimmie race dozens of times but I've only seen him win twice. Most memorable races ever. We'll miss you champ! M. Kline • My mom picked Jimmie in 2002 and I guess she chose right, because he's been my favorite ever since then. Bomba be said seeing one of the GOATS go. GO WIN BRISTOL JIMMIE #OneFinalTime S. Marasco • Jimmie has always been my hero...ever since I was a little kid. And back in 2009, I went to my first ever race, the 2009 400 at Dover. And who won? Jimmie. And that will forever be the most special moment of my racing fandom. THANK YOU, JIMMIE!! K. Marek • I painted this in high school in 2013. I've been wanting to show this to @JimmieJohnson since. Now it's more like a tribute painting. Thank you, Jimmie, for all that you've done on and off the track! Can't wait to see where the future takes you! #JimmieTribute J. Walls • #JimmieTribute My first NASCAR race was the 2014 400 at Dover and I got to see my favorite driver win. M. Martin • @JimmieJohnson is my husband's favorite driver. So as a wedding surprise I bought a Jimmie race used fire to use as our guest book. Almost 2 years later and it's still in our living room. #JimmieTribute S. Wilson • Met Jimmie at Bristol his rookie year. We luv you Jimmie. Best of luck in your future. D. York • For me the best @JimmieJohnson memory was 2016. The last race on the regular Charlotte oval. It was special not only for it getting rained out and postponed from a night race to a day race but he won that race and my wife and I were in the stands on our honeymoon. J. Bartok • The best memory I have of a Jimmie Johnson Win is the 2006 race here in Vegas, that battle alone between him & Kenseth had the ENTIRE grandstand going wild. One of the best NASCAR Cup events I've ever attended. #JimmieTribute J. Petschauer • Thank you @JimmieJohnson for an incredible career. That you also ran a marathon puts you in the pantheon of #NASCAR drivers. #JimmieTribute J. Lingenstein • You're the 7 time best! #JimmieTribute A. Brown • I don't have a picture but I watched him win the 2013 Daytona 500 in person. Anyways my favorite win is 2016 Homestead where he won his 7th championship. #JimmieTribute J. Albert • #JimmieTribute his paint scheme is what drew me into following him, being blue and yellow. But watching him race and the way he carried himself on and off the track kept me as a fan. J. Carey • #JimmieTribute Jimmie Johnson is a living legend in motorsports and it's been an absolute pleasure being a fan of his for all this time. M. Orozco • This will always be my favorite Jimmie Johnson memory. I just got to meet him for a few seconds, but the fact that I was in the presence of that type of greatness is something I'll never forget. Hopefully I'll get to meet him again one day and get an autograph lol #JimmieTribute C. Rupe • I never had aspirations to race until I saw @JimmieJohnson wheel a car. Now the dream will never die. #JJ48 #JimmieTribute A. Tarter • #JimmieTribute Legendary car, legendary car owner, all around legendary! #NASCAR G. Cannon • 7. That is all. #JimmieTribute C. Montgomery • #JimmieTribute Seven-Time Champion. Considering today's racing environment, you have to be among the true GOATS. E. Ketcham • #JimmieTribute Mr. Class Act. You will be truly missed. P. Kanfer • Witnessed history with 5 Trophies in a row. Witnessed history again when you won your 7th Trophy. Thanks for the memories @JimmieJohnson @TeamChevy #JimmieTribute R. Hendea • It's been a BLAST watching u here in this lil ole Mississippi town the past several years! It made fun times with my youngest son as he grew up! I'm gonna savor each race u make ur last mark, tonight & on! Enjoy ur retirement! Blessings!!! #JimmieTribute #NASCAR K. Williams • I met some really cool people on here just for liking Jimmie, got to be more engaged in learning the sport, and have really enjoyed getting into it more this season despite it being his last. Forever one of the GOATS! #JimmieTribute A. Silvestro • Thank you, Jimmie, for all the rides, the laughs, the cheers and all the charity work you do. You are a real gentleman. Good luck in all you do. We love you! #48 #JimmieTribute T. Cline • #JimmieTribute I remember when I was about 3 years old back in 2003 when I got your toy car and it was the classic 48 rookie car and you just stuck with me ever since, little did I know what an amazing career you would have. Thank you for being there on Sundays 7Time! H. Kelley • #JimmieTribute One of the Greatest of All Time. B. Williamson • @JimmieJohnson You're the reason I started watching NASCAR in the first place. You turned me into a faithful fan after I caught my first race in 2008! #JimmieTribute C. Sullivan • You will be missed every week. Always a true Champion. One of a kind. Will be looking for you in Indy. T. Berg • Watching you win #7 was my most memorable @NASCAR moment! Honored to have been there. Respect. Champion. Good guy. #JimmieTribute A. Bomba • 7X NASCAR Champion that has made so much history! #GOAT Proud to be a JJ fan! 5 Championships in a row I'll probably never see that again! May never happen again! Excited to see him in an IndyCar next year! Enjoy! #JimmieTribute C. Jordan • Repping my favorite driver back in 2004 at Talladega @JimmieJohnson #JimmieTribute H. Bidlack • #JimmieTribute My first season I was watching @NASCAR I picked the first car I saw to follow. I'm so glad it was #48. It was the same year you became a legend with your 7 championships. I would not like this sport if it wasn't for you. Thank you for everything. KJ Remen • @jimmiejohnson is not only an incredibly skilled driver but he has such a great personality. It's impossible to hate this guy, he's just so loveable. J. Clark • #JimmieTribute The Man, The Myth, The Legend... @JimmieJohnson. Thank you for giving me so many great years of watching you rock the NASCAR tracks and becoming a 7x Champion. I'm very sad to see you leave the sport but wish you all the best in your new endeavors!! #JimmieTribute #fearda48 M. Gonzalez • When he spun out during practice at @TooToughToFame in 2008 in front of my mom, my dad and a friend of theirs and I managed to get a photo of it with them in it. #JimmieTribute M. Caldwell • #JimmieTribute Jimmie's first cup win! On my birthday! My first in-person race at California Speedway as a San Diego native! Met Chad and team in the Pits! And JJ tops it with a WIN! Best bday ever! L. Braley • 5 championships in a row he's one of the GOATS. #JimmieTribute J. Buckland • #JimmieTribute My special moment was when I got a personal meet and greet with Jimmie at Darlington. He's a great person and driver for sure! Always a Champion. V. Underwood • Working for his sponsor during his championship runs and having this (team polo shirt and hero card) sent to me from the team. G. Gill • You always have been and you always will be my driver. Thru all the wins, losses and heartbreaks, I've been a fan. Best wishes my friend. Always my driver, always one of the GOATS. #JimmieTribute A. Bird • Witnessed Jimmie's first cup race at Charlotte Oct 2001. That became one of my favorite NASCAR memories as time went on. #JimmieTribute J. Tamaro • #JimmieTribute Too many for 1 collage but one of my favorites is my high five on my birthday at the Roval last year and getting a pic with him at @TeamHendrick after his marathon announcement!! A. Cothran • 2005 was the first time I attended a race. 15 years later my driver is one of the GOATS and leaves us with great memories: from his 1st win to back2back titles to 6x, but none greater than Miami in 2016 7x. Jimmie flew that day. Thank you @JimmieJohnson! #JimmieTribute G. Baray • To me, he is the greatest and the epitome of what an athlete should strive to be. Jimmie won and lost with dignity and self-respect. Truly humble in victory and defeat. Thank you, Jimmie. #JimmieTribute W. Nicholson • Had the pleasure of meeting Jimmie a couple years ago @PoconoRaceway and he was nice enough to snap this pic with me. Congrats on a successful career Jimmie!!! #JimmieTribute E. Sheets • Just being lucky enough to see him race. #JimmieTribute L. Acton • #JimmieTribute My favorite Jimmie memory is when he won in the Madagascar paint scheme and he wore the circus wig to the post-race interview. Also he is always just a class act and such a nice guy. R. Gonzales • #JimmieTribute I saw him win at Martinsville in 2016 to get into the final 4 to win the 7th title. I was also at ROVAL 2018 when he went for it on the last lap but ended up taking his final playoff hopes away after the round of 16. It will be weird for sure not seeing him on track. I. McKissick • #JimmieTribute A true class act and legend. He will be missed! Thanks for everything! C. Pappas • #JimmieTribute Just wanted to thank @JimmieJohnson for giving us all 20 years of unforgettable moments in the 48 car. Enjoy your retirement Jimmie! And thank you for everything! 7-time champ! L. Kelley • #JimmieTribute I became a fan early in your NASCAR career, been 2 many races from Bristol South 2 Homestead & all in between over 13 yrs, so many exciting races, glorious wins & such class all along the way. Thnx 4 signing ur book 4 me at Dega. LUV U. L. Raines • Some of my favorite designs I've done as a #JimmieTribute. H. Mahmood • My favorite memory has to be when I was able to stand on pit road and watch @JimmieJohnson win his 7th Championship with my Dad. Been following him since 2004 and that moment has to be one of my TOP favorites as a 48 fan! #JimmieTribute #OneFinalTime M. Ragovin • We'll miss you Jimmie! Oh gosh wish I could have seen you in Chicagoland. A. Parra • One of, if not the, all-time greatest to ever drive in NASCAR. R. Woodworth • Watching him win championship 7 with my dad. #JimmieTribute A. Miller • Bristol 2017 where I finally got to see you win! #82 N. Stansfield • In my opinion the greatest to ever do it. With all the competition, rule changes and the constant car changes and yet to win championships the way he did is unreal. Not to mention we may never see 5 in a row ever again. I wish he had a better send off than a pandemic year, but I wish him all the best in Indy cars and his life going forward. Thank you Jimmie! A. Everson • #JimmieTribute. G. Aristizabal • Thanks for being my favorite driver for the last 13 years. Will forever miss you full time! J. Vongsy • Being able to visit the Daytona 500 this year and see JJ race in real life is something that'll always be very special to me. All the best of luck in Indy Car and everything beyond that, Jimmie! #JimmieTribute J. Bowman • Get er done Jimmie!!! #48 N. Niemeyer • Thinking he didn't have the speed or a chance for the championship in '16 but when he pulled it off I was as happy as ever. D. McChesney • I was at Hendrick's 200th win when Jimmie brought it home in Darlington. Awesome team. #JimmieTribute D. Boggess • I saw Jimmie win his first race at Chicagoland Speedway in 2001. What an amazing career he's had since that! It would have been cool to see Jimmie win an 8th Championship. A. Wilson • One time I wasn't paying attention whilst running around @disupdates and I ended up running straight into him. I felt so bad for literally smacking into one of the greatest drivers of all time as he was making his way to an appearance and he was SO kind about it (it would have been so annoyed lol). He refused to let me apologize and was so gracious. Going to miss him in NASCAR but can't wait to see what he does in IndyCar! #JimmieTribute T. Zimmerman • 2009 Brickyard 400 holding off Mark Martin for the win in my favorite JJ paint scheme of his career @jimmiejohnson #JimmieTribute M. Boltuc • Was supposed to see @jimmiejohnson race in person for the first time this year at Charlotte but COVID ruined that. I may not have ever gotten to see him race in person, but I'll never forget watching him win championship number 7 on tv, one of the coolest things I've ever seen. I will miss watching one of the GOATS race in NASCAR full time, but I look forward to seeing him race in IndyCar! #JimmieTribute D. Lissor • There are so many great moments. But my favorite memory is @txtmotorspeedway in 2007 when I finally got to see @jimmiejohnson win in person!!! C. Range • #JimmieTribute I was blessed enough to see Jimmie win ALL of his 7 titles LIVE in Miami...he IS one of the GOATS and it was all done in a Chevy!!!! I wish him the best in IndyCar racing and I will miss him terribly!! God bless him and his family, wishing you all the best, Jimmie!! P. Snider • #JimmieTribute My mother and I have loved watching you race and we will miss cheering and rooting for you. P. Dodgson • One of my favorite Jimmie moments was being at @BMSupdates for the spring 2017 race. I got the flu that weekend and the race was rained out. I felt well enough to go on Monday and he won! I even got to go to victory lane for the celebration. It was so exciting! #JimmieTribute C. Cindia • Getting Jimmie's autograph when he visited the GM plant up here in Canada (my dad worked there) then my parents picked up his rookie throwback 1:24 diecast to match my 1:64 diecast from years ago! #JimmieTribute K. Lawler • Meeting @JimmieJohnson at HMS admin building in 2014 was surreal. Cool guy with a bike rack on a Chevy Tahoe. R. Clarke • Was lucky enough to meet him at a fan event held @ his CA dealership. It was so nice because he took the time to just talk with all of us & answer a ton of questions. Such a class act! J. Torres • #JimmieTribute I stumbled upon this hero card a few years ago. You signed it for me at a 1998 ASA race in Anderson, IN. I was 10 years old at the time. I became a fan of yours years later. And I was shocked when I found it. Now it is framed and sitting in my office at home. R. Elliott • When I was a kid I went to @CLTMotorSpdwy in 2011. This was the year Jimmie released a racing video game. I was in line for a while to play. Then got on. I had headphones on and was playing my heart out. Then he showed up to the booth and walked up onto the stage and saw me. He tapped my shoulder while I was playing and then I had a once in a lifetime moment and his foundation got me an awesome photo autographed. That is how I became a Jimmie fan for life. #JimmieTribute C. Mifsud • #JimmieTribute At Las Vegas Motor Speedway while he was walking to the drivers meeting, it's jam packed with fans, so I screamed "I got money on ya Jimmie!!!!!!" He laughed and people let me through the crowd and he signed my race ticket. Thank you 7X!!!! It's hanging on my wall. E. Reigert • One of the absolute greatest of all time. I've seen him race many times, but being there for his 5th NASCAR championship at Homestead was the best by far. He gave me his Team Chevy hat! Stay gold and best of luck. #JimmieTribute D. Muller • Jimmie will be remembered for his dedication. Throughout his illustrious career, he was dedicated to being the very best at what he does, to Chevy and Hendrick Motorsports, and to being an incredible role model for his fans. Here's to the next chapter. #JimmieTribute @TeamChevy D. Marvin • #JimmieTribute He gave me someone to root for after Jeff Gordon retired. But beyond that, seeing him set fire to the record books the way he did and just an overall determination and hunger to be the best. I'll never forget being in the stands for win 83. P. Spain • Jimmie has been my favorite driver since I was 13 (about 15 years). I never got to attend a race in person until 2017 when I got cheap student tickets from @BMSupdates. It rained, and the race was rescheduled for Monday. My boss let me off on late notice and Jimmie won! J. Smith • I saw their level of preparation when they won at #MartinsvilleSpeedway in 2013. I was in the garage that weekend! I saw more JJ victories at the track than any other driver. He was the dominator of his era. Thanks for the memories. #JimmieTribute #NASCAR P. Bogue • I started watching Jimmie race in '01 and he instantly became my favorite. Getting to watch him race this year for the 1st time, even with COVID...I got to watch the man fly around NHMS. It was the best day of my life. #JimmieTribute #ThanksJimmie P. McCormack • One that is rarely brought up is JJ is the only rookie to lead in points at any time during the season. One has to wonder what would have happened if MM had not hit JJ on the pace lap at Dega. R. Steckiel • One of the best drivers on and off the track in racing. My Mom and I have enjoyed cheering for the 7X Champion for all of his wins. Each time in victory lane was very special. He deserves only good things in life. #JimmieTribute J. Youngs • throwback to one of my fav JJ looks, definitely top 10 in my @JimmieJohnson fashion lookbook. #JimmieTribute D. Brown • I've been a fan of Jimmie ever since I started watching NASCAR in 2011, and one of my favorite wins will always be the 2012 Southern 500, where Jimmie finally got HMS 200th win. To this day it's still one of my favorite moments in NASCAR history. #JimmieTribute S. Eagleston • I was lucky enough to meet @JimmieJohnson in Aspen, Colorado, in 2017! Jimmie was spending time with his family but took a moment to talk to my friends and I after he won #7! Always a class act, and I will never forget that day! Thanks for everything #7Time #JimmieTribute C. Mikosz • I'll never forget last year when I waited at Jimmie's garage stall in Talladega for five. whole. hours. just to get my little hat signed. He seemed to have noticed, because as soon as he started signing he made a beeline for me first. Best day ever. #JimmieTribute C. Calvert • Thank you Jimmie for all of your years in NASCAR! Proud to be a fan of the "Great 48"! Most importantly thank you for the Foundation, always being a class act and someone that even the littlest of fans can look up to! Looking forward to your next chapter. INDY!! #JimmieTribute B. DelMoral • I mean I could go on for days, but seeing him sweep Daytona in 2013, seeing him win at Charlotte & Dover multiple times, BUT winning his 7th championship at Homestead in 2016 will always be my TOP Jimmie moment. #JimmieTribute N. D'occhio • My favorite memory of @JimmieJohnson was watching him win his record-tying 7th championship! Never thought I would be able to see anyone do it. TRULY UNBELIEVABLE! #JimmieTribute C. Palmer • 2016 Homestead. Winning the race and his 7th Championship on the final restart! One of my favorite all time moments! #JimmieTribute G. D'occhio • Favorite win and scheme had to be from 2014 Charlotte race. This scheme was American Perfection, and this was just a special week after graduation, and Jimmie winning in this car made it all the better. M. Dvorak • My favorite memory of @JimmieJohnson was seeing him win my first ever NASCAR race I attended in person, the 2013 Daytona 500. What an awesome time that was. Most things were a blur 7 years ago but this one I remember clear as day. #JimmieTribute J. Britt • My favorite memory of @JimmieJohnson is Homestead 2016 when he won his 7th championship which is also his first win at the track. #JimmieTribute P. Patterson • The picture quality isn't really that good, but here's a picture with me and Jimmie back in 2013. Definitely one of the highlights of my life so far. #JimmieTribute Z. Robinson • My personal favorite was at @TalladegaSuperS. Watching him tandem draft with @DaleJr and fly up through there to seal the win in a classic Talladega finish was remarkable, 4 wide on the low side. #JimmieTribute M. Nicholson • #JimmieTribute I was 10 years old, and I used to go watch the races on a 10" screen in a diecast shop owned by this guy who used to give me old NASCAR Scene mags. To see him win this race made me believe Jimmie was one of the GOATS. Still a fan to this day of his because of that day! N. Griego • Jimmie, you have made so, so many people happy for many years in racing and it blows my mind of how you made it this far. You are a very big inspiration to everyone in the world. I have been watching you since '03 and just... You're MY hero, Jimmie. I wish I could meet you. #JimmieTribute W. Wilde • My favorite Jimmie memory has to be watching him win his 7th title in person. Me and many others who weren't Jimmie fans were in that moment. The energy among that crowd was like nothing else I have ever felt at a live event. It's something I will never forget. #JimmieTribute J. Miller • I remember when he won @ACSupdates back in 2016. That was the first race I ever saw in person. #JimmieTribute. J. Gates • #JimmieTribute As much as I'm gonna miss watching you in Cup, I can't wait to see what you can do in IndyCar next year. E. Voorhees • My favorite memory was seeing him in person win his 7th championship @HomesteadMiami... it was awesome!!! Those 2 last restarts gave him the win!!! #JimmieTribute S. Rivera • A cherished memory of mine was when he wheeled the superhero design to victory. He was so gracious to share the moment, and I couldn't have felt more grateful. I may have mentioned the paint scheme gave him powers. #JimmieTribute B. Droppo • #JimmieTribute I remember Jimmie winning his 7th title. I was so happy for him. Just the way he raced was something special. He will go down as the GOAT in my book. M. Stawrr • Jimmie Johnson on 2 tires holding off Dale Jr. on 4 tires at Dover. Was infuriating for me, but one of the most impressive things I had ever seen him do with a race car. #JimmieTribute R. Matheson • My favorite @JimmieJohnson memory is the Spring race at Charlotte in 2005. I was there and watched him win. Congratulations Jimmie for all your moments in NASCAR. #JimmieTribute A. Lockhart • #JimmieTribute @JimmieJohnson hope you have a good retirement, and get win 84. J. Scates • One of my all-time favorite @JimmieJohnson memories has to be when he won his 7th NASCAR Cup Series Championship Title and was able to tie with elite company. I wanna wish Jimmie all but the best on his future endeavors!! #JimmieTribute K. Geerling • @JimmieJohnson witnessing the dominant run you had @IMS in the mid 2000s in person. I didn't appreciate it then, but now I realize I was watching greatness. #JimmieTribute A. Watson • My memory of Jimmie is being there when he won his first cup race at @ACSupdates in May of 2002. #JimmieTribute J. Selig • @JimmieJohnson went out of his way to come up and talk to me and my daughter in Orlando this past February. We were wearing our 48 hats from the Daytona 500! So grateful I got to meet my racing idol and his beautiful family! Thank you for the memories 48. #JimmieTribute J. Gilmet • #JimmieTribute Monster Mile used to have contests to fire off the confetti in victory lane. The time I won I got to be in victory lane with Jimmie. Like him, I grew up watching Jeff Gordon Thursday night thunder and got into NASCAR when he was in cup series. As for Jimmie I can't say I was a fan or I wasn't. I respected everything he's done in NASCAR. My friend that was in victory lane got to high five Jimmie too. And you could see it from the tv feed. At the end of the day, I got Jimmie and Chad to sign a checkered flag. I have a video of him putting the car into victory lane too. C. Taitt • My favorite Jimmie moment came last year. After he missed the playoff for the first time in his career, I wrote him a letter of encouragement for the Vegas weekend. I was so happy to see he not only read it but posted it for everyone to see! What a class act! #JimmieTribute A. Williams • Witnessed Hendrick 200th win with my hero, my late father gone too early. He got me to both of the races I've ever been to with my social anxiety. #JimmieTribute R. Pickett • #JimmieTribute I met Jimmie Johnson @NHMS in 2016 see that blue 48 car all day. Getting a diecast signed from him was my dream come true and whatever Jimmie will do in the future, I will be happy. Can't wait for him to race in IndyCar! Fantastic career Jimmie! S. Upton • One of the absolute greatest of all time. I've seen him race many times, but being there for his 5th NASCAR championship at Homestead was the best by far. He gave me his Team Chevy hat! Stay gold and best of luck. #JimmieTribute D. Muller • Jimmie will be remembered for his dedication. Throughout his illustrious career, he was dedicated to being the very best at what he does, to Chevy and Hendrick Motorsports, and to being an incredible role model for his fans. Here's to the next chapter. #JimmieTribute @TeamChevy D. Marvin • #JimmieTribute I was blessed enough to see Jimmie win ALL of his 7 titles LIVE in Miami...he IS one of the GOATS and it was all done in a Chevy!!!! I wish him the best in IndyCar racing and I will miss him terribly!! God bless him and his family...wishing you all the best, Jimmie!! P. Snider

We couldn't have said it better ourselves.

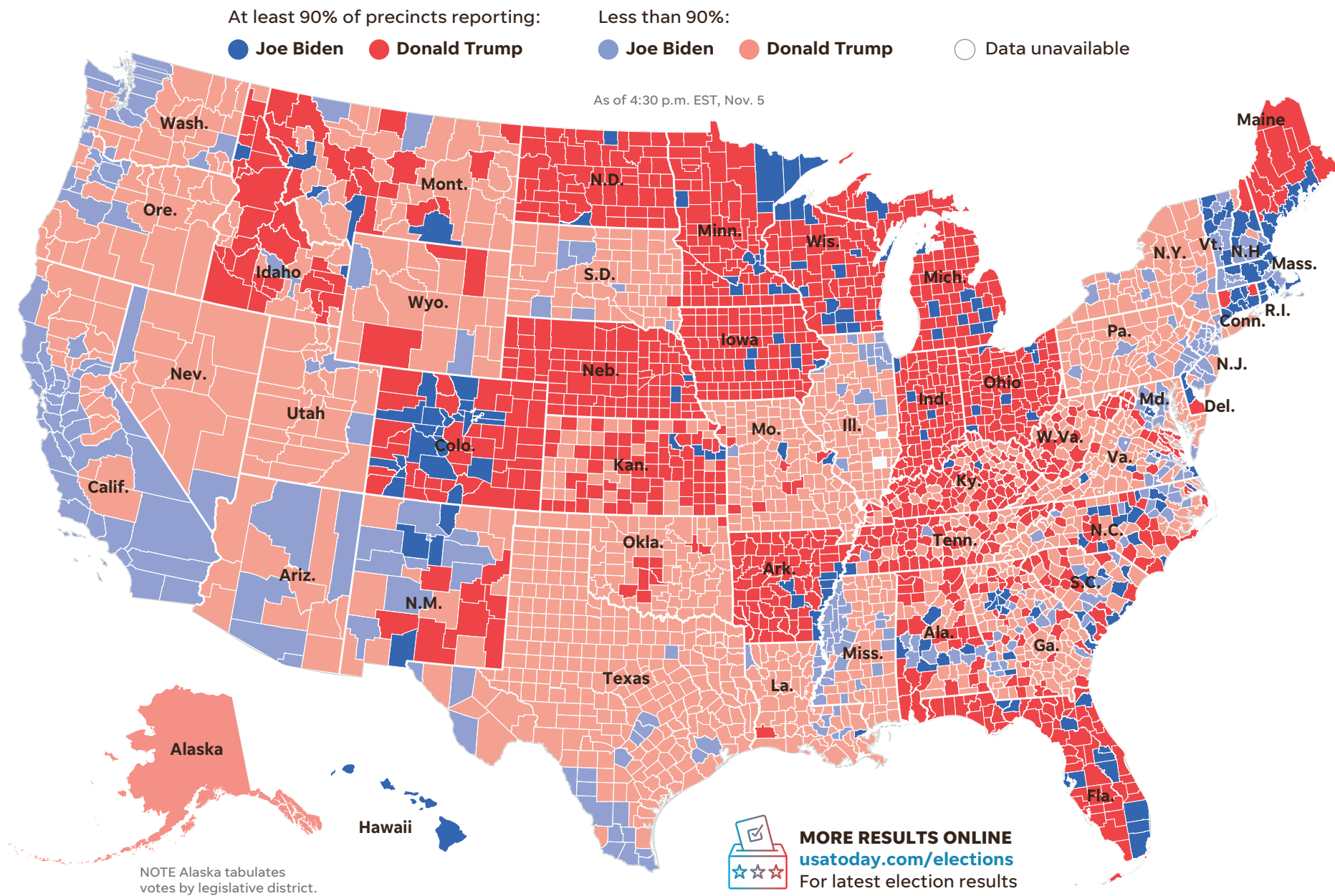
CHEVROLET



Red and blue: How we voted

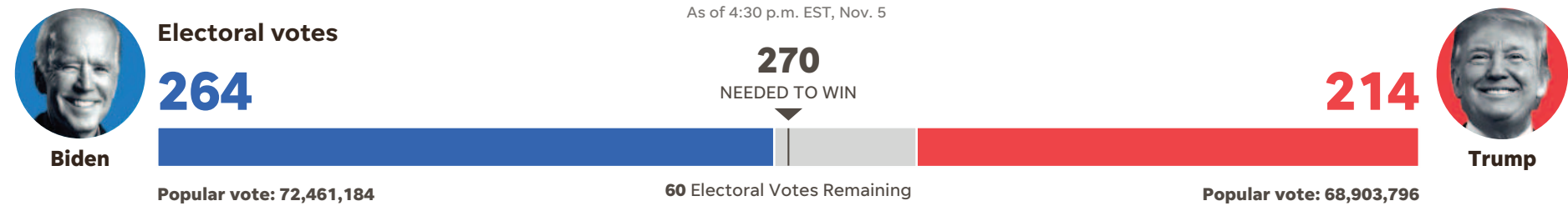
With ballots counted in most counties and states, a clearer picture emerges

Countywide voting



2020 presidential results

As of 4:30 p.m. EST, Nov. 5

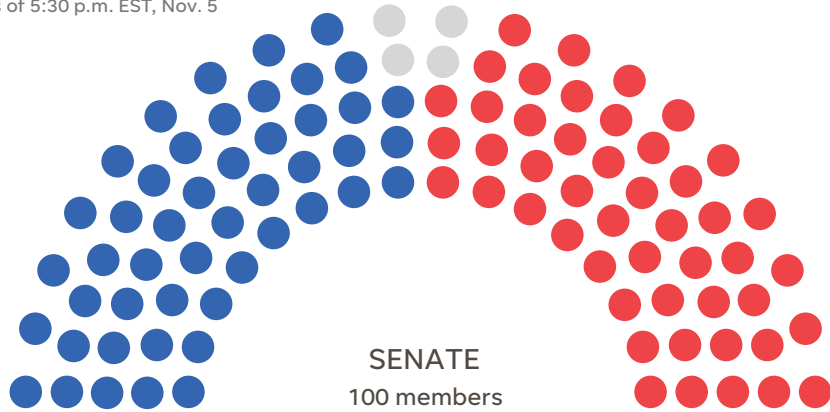


Party control: Senate

There are 35 seats up for election in the Senate. Democrats need a net gain of three or four seats to win a majority in the Senate

Democrats 48 Undecided 4 Republicans 48

As of 5:30 p.m. EST, Nov. 5

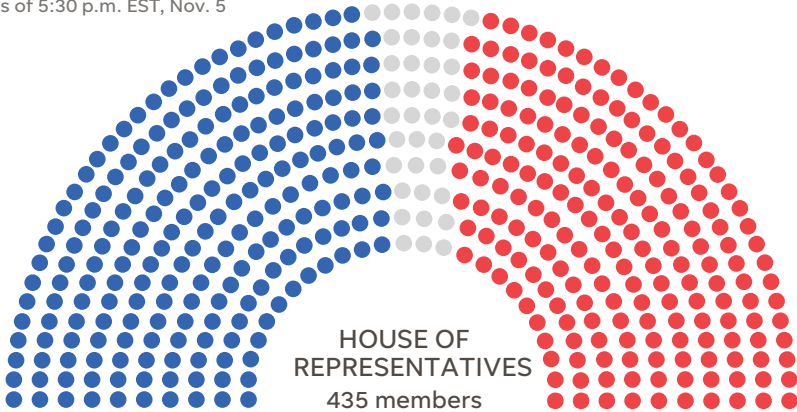


Party control: House of Representatives

Democrats are favored to keep control of the House in November, though Republicans hold a majority of state delegations.

Democrats 208 Undecided 37 Republicans 190

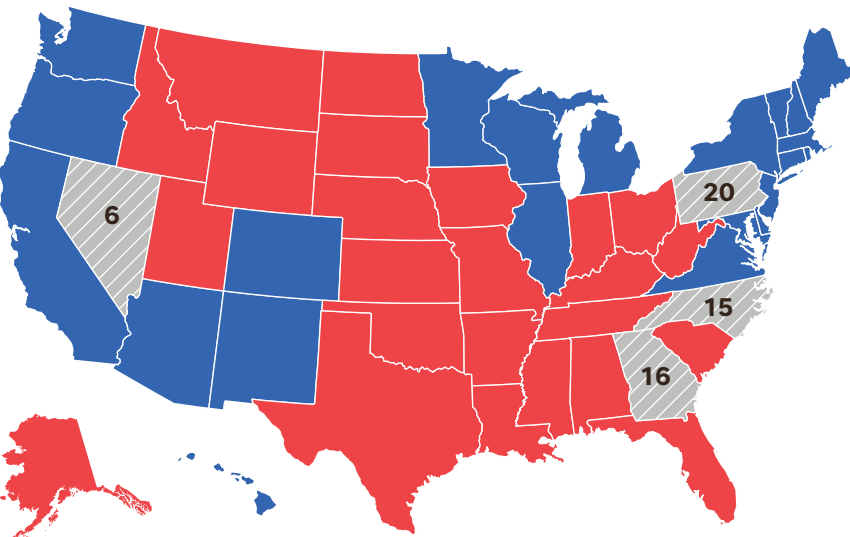
As of 5:30 p.m. EST, Nov. 5



Presidential state-by-state results

As of 5:30 p.m. EST, Nov. 5

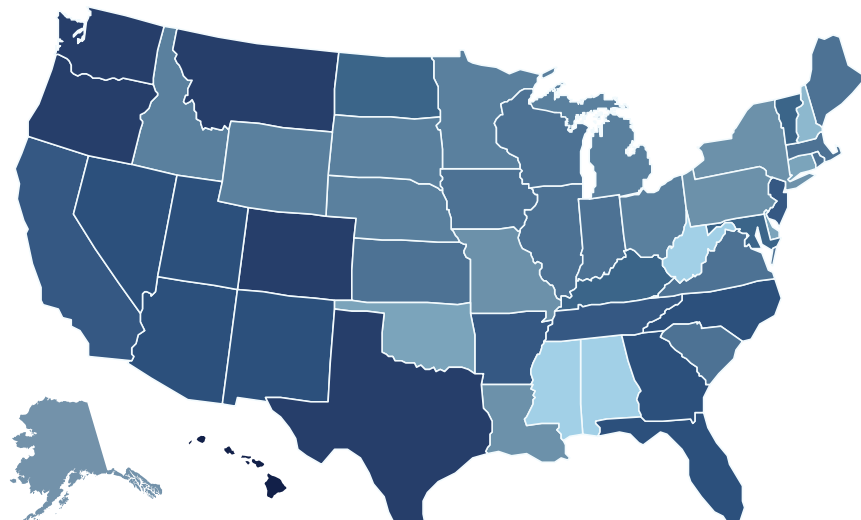
Biden Trump In progress (electoral votes at stake)



All early votes in 2020 as percentage of total 2016 voter turnout

Hawaii had the highest percentage with 110% and Alabama had the lowest with 14.1%.

0% 30% 60% 90% 110%



ELECTION

2020

What if Trump refuses to concede?

No law requires longtime presidential tradition

Joel Shannon
USA TODAY

When a candidate loses a U.S. presidential election, tradition holds the candidate promptly and publicly acknowledges defeat in a concession speech to help with the peaceful transition of power.

The speech, while difficult for a candidate, is typically a gracious celebration of American democracy. The Chicago Tribune and Arizona Republic opinion columns have held up John McCain’s concession to Barack Obama in 2008 as an example of the tradition done right.

“The American people have spoken, and they have spoken clearly,” McCain said at the time. “A little while ago, I had the honor of calling Sen. Barack Obama to congratulate him on being elected the next president of the country that we both love.”

A concession speech isn’t part of U.S. law or the Constitution – it’s a time-honored voluntary gesture, author and liberal commentator Van Jones said in an October 2020 Ted Talk.

He is among those who have speculated about the details of what could happen if President Donald Trump – who has declined to commit on a peaceful transfer of power and is now facing a narrow path to reelection – refused to concede if he lost the 2020 presidential election.

Without a concession, usually hidden parts of the election process – such as the inner workings of the Electoral College – could be ripped open and used to decide the election in an unprecedented way. It would mean a race could be headed for a result decided by the



Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden (left) and Republican President Donald Trump are pictured during their respective campaigns. ANGELA WEISS, AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES | SAUL LOEB/AFP

courts or by obscure parts of the law.

But a concession signals to voters that none of that will occur: Supporters should accept the results, which will not be further challenged by the losing candidate.

Can a race be called without a concession?

While many Americans are used to presidential election results and public concessions from the losing candidate occurring at roughly the same time, that doesn’t have to be the case.

“As a legal matter, a candidate unwilling to concede can contest the election into January,” according to a report by the Transition Integrity Project, a recent effort by researchers to study scenarios that would put the integrity of the 2020 election at risk.

The mechanisms for publicly projecting a presidential winner in the media, officially counting the votes and formal-

ly electing a president are separate from a candidate conceding the race.

Has a presidential candidate ever refused to concede?

Not in modern history, although a nearly instant public speech hasn’t always been the way candidates concede, according to The Hill. And if you go back in history, you can find examples where norms of the time around concessions were violated, including by Thomas Jefferson.

The modern understanding of a public concession can be traced to 1896, when William Jennings Bryan sent opponent William McKinley a cordial telegram, NPR reports.

Since then, candidates have forged a tradition of publicly acknowledging defeat and celebrating democracy in radio addresses, a recorded newsreel or on live television.

Can a candidate take back a conces-

sion?

Yes – and it has happened before in a presidential race.

In the historically tight 2000 election, Vice President Al Gore conceded to George W. Bush, only to retract the concession when the race tightened.

“He called an hour ago to concede. He just called us back to retract that concession, Karen Hughes, communications director for Bush, said at the time, according to the Associated Press. “It’s unbelievable.”

That’s possible because concessions are an informal part of U.S. elections, according to Ryan Neville-Shepard, a University of Arkansas professor who specializes in political communication.

“Electoral concessions are not in any way binding; to the contrary, they arise out of, and are a nod to, a candidate’s faith in other electoral norms,” Neville-Shepardwrote in a Washington Post column in 2018.

Contributing: The Associated Press



Joe Biden hugs his wife, Jill, after his speech to the Democratic National Convention on Aug. 20 in Wilmington, Del. ANDREW HARNIK/AP

Biden sets record for most votes received

Josh Peter
USA TODAY

While votes were still being counted, former Vice President Joe Biden broke the record for most votes received by a presidential candidate, amassing more than 70 million.

The record was held by Barack Obama, who received 69,498,516 votes in the 2008 election when he beat John McCain, the Republican senator from Arizona.

Biden eclipsed that mark at 1:30 p.m. EST Wednesday, according to The New York Times, and he later broke the 70 million-vote threshold.

President Donald Trump also had a chance to break Obama’s record for the popular vote. Thursday morning, Trump had more than 68.5 million votes, according to CBS News.

Breaking the record is no guarantee of victory. The winner of the presidential race is decided not by the popular vote but the Electoral College.

In 2016, Trump lost the popular vote to Hillary Clinton by almost 3 million votes but won the Electoral College and, as a result, the presidency.

When George Washington was elected in 1789 as the first U.S. president, he received 43,782 votes – 100% of those cast.

2 Georgia Senate races may result in runoff elections

Nicholas Wu
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Though Democrats’ chances at winning a Senate majority are diminishing, the fight may stretch into 2021.

Both of the Georgia Senate seats up for election this year could head to runoff contests in January, based on results in the state as of Thursday.

Republican Sen. David Perdue held 50% of the vote Thursday morning. If that tally ends up below the 50% mark, he’ll face Democratic challenger Jon Ossoff on Jan. 5 in a runoff. The other Georgia Senate seat contested between GOP Sen. Kelly Loeffler and Democrat Raphael Warnock, senior pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, already appears headed to a runoff next year.

The races could play an important role in the makeup of the new Senate, though Republicans are likely to keep their majority. Democrats flipped two seats this election – in Arizona and Colorado – and lost one seat in Alabama, resulting in a net gain of one seat. Going into Election Day, Democrats had to win four seats to gain a majority or three if they won the White House.

The remaining chances for Democrats are the two Georgia seats, as well as seats in Alaska and North Carolina.

Republicans mostly beat challengers in seats Democrats hoped to win this week. The GOP was victorious in Senate races in Iowa, Maine, Montana, South Carolina and a long-shot race in Kentucky against Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

The Associated Press called the Michigan Senate race, a top Republican target, for incumbent Democratic Sen. Gary Peters on Wednesday evening. Republican candidate John James had not conceded the race, and his campaign alleged election improprieties on Fox News.

Georgia

Perdue led Ossoff 50% to 47.7% as of Thursday morning.

Perdue needs to secure at least 50% of the vote to avoid a runoff, and Ossoff and Libertarian candidate Shane Ha-



Sen. David Perdue, R-Ga., speaks during a campaign rally for President Donald Trump at Middle Georgia Regional Airport on Oct. 16 in Macon. JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

zel have chipped away at Perdue’s vote share over the past several days. Gabriel Sterling, Georgia’s voting system implementation manager, said midmorning Thursday there were about 60,000 votes left to be counted.

As Perdue’s vote share declined, Ossoff’s campaign campaign manager, Ellen Foster, said Thursday they were “confident” that a runoff election would be called for January and that Ossoff would win.

Perdue’s campaign manager, Ben Fry, countered, “If overtime is required when all of the votes have been counted, we’re ready, and we will win.”

North Carolina

Incumbent Republican Sen. Thom Tillis lead in North Carolina by almost 97,000 after 93% of the votes were counted. He thanked supporters in an Election Night speech for a “stunning victory.”

His Democratic opponent, former state Sen. Cal Cunningham, declined to concede the race, waiting for more ballots to be counted.

North Carolina’s Senate race was the most expensive in U.S. history, accord-

ing to the Center for Responsive Politics. It was upended in its final weeks by disclosures that Cunningham had an affair and Tillis tested positive for COVID-19.

President Donald Trump led Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden by roughly 77,000 votes in North Carolina after about 94% of the vote was counted.

Alaska

Alaska’s Senate race was a long shot for Democrats, but it became a potential pickup opportunity as the campaign cycle progressed. Democratic-backed independent candidate Al Gross raked in campaign donations and polled competitively with incumbent Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan.

Trump won Alaska by about 15 percentage points in 2016. Sullivan won election to his first term in 2014 by about 2 percentage points.

After about half of the vote was counted, Sullivan led Gross by almost 58,000 votes, or about 30 percentage points.

Contributing: Lita Nadebah Beck, Christal Hayes, Joey Garrison, Deirdre Shesgreen, and Ledyard King

ELECTION

2020

Dems fail to grab statehouse control

GOP likely to keep voting majorities in key states

Nick Penzenstadler, Marisa Kwiatkowski and Tricia L. Nadolny
USA TODAY

Democrats who hoped to flip statehouse control in battleground states fell short of their goals on Election Day, and redistricting of state and federal voting districts looms in the new year.

Overshadowed by the attention to national politics in the lead-up to the election, Democrats had methodically targeted opportunities to pick up seats in Arizona, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Texas.

Though some legislative district votes are still being tallied, Republicans probably will retain control of many of those places, including North Carolina’s House and Senate and Texas, which stayed red. Republicans are likely to preserve voting majorities in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan, too.

“This appears to be a remarkably status quo election in the U.S. states,” Tim Storey and Wendy Underhill of the National Conference of State Legislatures, a bipartisan group, said in a blog post Wednesday morning.

They said the election may have produced the fewest party control changes since 1944, when only four chambers changed hands.

Majority party control in many states will play a crucial role next year in the once-a-decade redrawing of congressional maps based on the census. Redistricting has become an increasingly political process, in which parties seek to chop up the map to favor partisanship or to dilute the voting power of racial or ethnic groups, critics say.

About 6,000 state legislative seats out of the nation’s 7,383 were up for grabs Tuesday. Republicans have controlled a majority of seats since the 2010 election, when 13 chambers flipped to the GOP. Going into Tuesday night, Republicans controlled 59 of 99 state legislative chambers.

Money poured into the quest as each side raised hundreds of millions of dollars for campaigns and landed hundreds of millions more in outside spending. Democrats held the fundraising and spending advantage going into Election Day, and more than 80 candidates on each side of the aisle raised more than \$1 million individually for their races.

Yet Democrats did not make any gains in the states that had been called by midday Wednesday. Republicans picked up both chambers in New Hampshire. In North Carolina, Democrats would have needed to flip several seats in the Senate and House. Instead, Republicans are poised to gain an additional Senate seat and four House seats, holding both majorities. Votes remained too close to call in Arizona.

Jessica Post, president of the national Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee, spent the past year putting together the strategy that failed to deliver Tuesday.

She said that although her party held some majorities and picked up a few seats, “we always knew this would be an uphill battle.”

“We knew we had to have a perfect night in Texas to win, and likewise, Republicans spent millions to defend their majorities in North Carolina, and we still gained two seats in that Senate,” Post said.

Post’s counterpart, Republican Senate Leadership Committee President Austin Chambers, celebrated his party’s victories Tuesday, calling the day a “complete and utter failure by the Democrats.”

He said Democrats tried to nationalize statehouse issues, but outside spending and campaigning by national figures such as Mike Bloomberg, Eric Holder and Beto O’Rourke didn’t resonate.

Chambers said Tuesday’s result represented a significant hold by Republicans, even compared with 2010 when the GOP picked up 19 chambers, plus some legislators who switched party affiliation.

“The Democrats’ cockiness started at the beginning of the year with a plan to ‘flip everything,’ and thus far, they haven’t flipped anything,” Chambers said.

Storey, the National Conference of State Legislatures executive director, compared the election results to “trench warfare with enormous energy and firepower put into it and the line didn’t



Harris County election worker Romanique Tillman prepares mail-in ballots to be sent out to voters Sept. 29 in Houston.
DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP



Texas Department of Public Safety troopers gather at the Capitol on Election Day. JAY JANNER/USA TODAY NETWORK

change much.”

Under a divided Congress, Storey said, legislating at the state level could become even more important during the pandemic.

“Some of the biggest challenges confronting America have emerged from COVID and the murder of George Floyd,” Story said, “and it will be the states looking at criminal justice reform and health care access.”

The cost of races rankles some

Arizona Senate President Karen Fann, a Republican, said she was disturbed by the amount of out-of-state money Democrats poured into the state. In a typical election, she said, \$50,000 to \$80,000 is spent per state legislative seat. This year, she said, Democrats spent about \$1.1 million in just one state race and nearly \$10 million overall.

“We’re going to have to go out and start raising more money if this is going to be the new norm in Arizona,” she said. “It’s going to be, what, a battle of who can raise the most money? Which is very sad, because elections should always be about the candidates, their qualifications and where they stand on the issues, not who’s got the most money that can run the most TV ads or social media ads.”

Arizona House Minority Leader Charlene Fernandez, a Democrat, said the amount of money spent was “irrelevant.”

“We had excellent candidates with

excellent credentials that did the work,” she said.

Democrats have not held a majority in the Arizona House of Representatives since 1966 and in the Senate for three decades. The party has made gains in recent elections and this year needed to net just two seats to take control of the House and three seats to win the Senate.

Katie Nash, a teacher and president of the education association in the Phoenix suburb of Chandler, was optimistic Tuesday afternoon.

“It’s like having something on your Christmas list for like 10 years,” she said. “And then you finally think that you have a strategy and it’s going to come through.”

Nash rattled off a laundry list of issues she said teachers have failed to gain traction on in the Republican-controlled Legislature: educator pay, more school counselors, lower class sizes. She said that “just having the hope” of a split Legislature was “pretty amazing at this point.”

New Hampshire red wave

Republicans held their ground in hotly contested statehouse races – including maintaining the Texas House and supermajorities in both chambers in Kansas – and they gained footing in New Hampshire.

The GOP flipped the state Senate and House, chambers Democrats seized in 2018, according to the National Confer-

ence of State Legislatures. Republican Gov. Chris Sununu was reelected to a third term.

The shift in New Hampshire has the potential to break a legislative stalemate in the capital. Sununu has set a modern-day veto record while the House and Senate were under Democratic leadership, rejecting more than 75 pieces of legislation in two years, including paid family medical leave, new funding for mental health services and a bill that would have allowed medical marijuana patients to grow their own cannabis.

“We’re seeing Gov. Sununu trying to spend a lot of his political capital on the state legislative races,” Dante Scala, a professor of political science at the University of New Hampshire, said Tuesday. “They’ve been pretty aggressively mailing voters with the message, ‘If you like Gov. Sununu, send him some Republican legislators.’”

Scala said a return to complete Republican control is a “huge deal” for redistricting. In New Hampshire, districts are drawn by the Legislature, and the governor has veto power. Sununu has twice vetoed bills that would have created an independent commission to redraw the lines.

“Eight years ago, (Republicans) controlled the Legislature to such a degree they were able to overrule the Democratic governor at the time, and they were able to redraw the map to their advantage,” Scala said. “Now if they can do that again, that would be clearly a big advantage in a Democratic-leaning state.”

Texas Democratic Party spokesman Abhi Rahman said one of his party’s priorities in the election had been to secure a seat at the table for the redistricting process. In 2010, he said, Republicans drew unfair congressional district maps that “disenfranchised hundreds of communities” and consolidated power for the entire decade.

Democrats’ efforts were unsuccessful; Republicans retained control of the Texas House and Senate and, thus, control over redistricting.

Lt. Col. Allen West, chairman of the Republican Party of Texas, told USA TODAY the election outcome shows voters – including those new to Texas – want a strong, conservative state.

“We want them to be part of the Texas way of life and not bring the bad policies of the places that they’re fleeing from here to Texas,” he said.

Resident Scott Kingsolver told USA TODAY he was disappointed but not surprised that Republicans retained control of both chambers. The 35-year-old said he didn’t want any one party to have an advantage and hoped shifting seats to Democratic control would better reflect the diversity of perspectives in Texas.

Wednesday, Kingsolver said he hopes Texans’ attention will shift to finding solutions to problems, rather than fighting.

“We’re going to get the state and country that we deserve, ultimately,” he said. “And Texas can be the example of that in a positive way, or Texas can be an example of just crumbling in the weight of division and paranoia of the other.”



A voter drops off a ballot on Election Day outside State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Ariz. MATT YORK/AP

ELECTION

2020

Puerto Rico awaits governor’s result

New Progressive Party candidate celebrates

Dánica Coto
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico – People across Puerto Rico awaited final results Wednesday of elections that saw long lines of voters and produced a tight gubernatorial race in the U.S. Caribbean territory.

Pedro Pierluisi of the pro-statehood New Progressive Party held a slight lead over Carlos Delgado of the Popular Democratic Party, which supports the island’s current status. More than 12,000 votes separated the top two candidates after more than 95% of the ballots cast Tuesday were counted as well as some returns from early and absentee ballots, which also were still being tallied.

Pierluisi celebrated the early results and held a news conference, while Delgado said shortly after midnight that he would await final results.

Pierluisi’s actions were “irresponsible,” Delgado said.

Meanwhile, Jenniffer González, Puerto Rico’s representative in U.S. Congress and Pierluisi’s running partner, easily won a second term.

The preliminary results disappointed voters like 69-year-old David Jorge Santos, who said he had been a longtime supporter of one of the two main parties – though he declined to say which – but this year voted for a new party because he said the New Progressives and Popular Democrats don’t deliver.

“It’s one promise after another and they don’t do anything,” Santos said.

It’s the first time that neither of Puerto Rico’s two main parties won more than 40% of the overall vote and neither will hold a majority in the Legislature, according to preliminary results. New parties and candidates won several legislative seats. The island’s Senate also for the first time will have a gay Black woman as a member.

“There were fundamental changes,” said political analyst Domingo Emanuel. “They’re seeking candidates not based on ideology, gender or party but because they’re decent. This is work that takes four, five, 10 years, but the people have already started.”

Puerto Rico: The 51st state?

Voters also favored a nonbinding referendum that asked “Should Puerto Rico be admitted immediately into the union as a state?” It was backed by more than 52% of voters, with more than 95% of votes counted.

The U.S. Congress, however, would have to approve of any changes to the island’s political status.

The race to become mayor of Puerto Rico’s capital also was extremely tight. Only hundreds of votes separated two candidates, including one from a new party. The winner would replace Car-



Pedro Pierluisi, gubernatorial candidate with the New Progressive Party (PNP), arrives at Vivo Beach Club accompanied by Puerto Rico’s U.S. Congress representative Jenniffer González to celebrate a slim lead for the pro-statehood party in the Puerto Rican general elections in Carolina, Puerto Rico, on Tuesday. CARLOS GIUSTI/AP

“They’ve been doing the same thing for years and there’s no change.”

Rafael Fonseca
an administrator who wishes neither party would win the Puerto Rico gubernatorial race

men Yulín Cruz, known for her public spats with President Donald Trump.

As results trickled in late Tuesday, car horns blared and occasional fireworks pierced the night as supporters celebrated.

Trailing the two main candidates were Juan Dalmau of the Puerto Rican Independence Party, which for the first time since the 1950s obtained double-digit support, Alexandra Lúgaro of Citizen Victory Movement, César Vázquez of the Dignity Project and independent candidate Eliezer Molina.

It was the first election held since Hurricane Maria hit the island in 2017, causing damage estimated at more than \$100 billion and killing an estimated

2,975 people.

Less than two years after the storm, hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans took to the streets in protest and prompted Gov. Ricardo Rosselló to quit, an event known as the “Summer of 2019” that was sparked by a leaked chat in which the then-governor and other officials made fun of hurricane victims, among other things, and made comments that led to an investigation into possible corruption.

Pierluisi briefly served as governor after last year’s protests and previously represented Puerto Rico in Congress for eight years. He and Rosselló are from the same party.

The candidates faced a dwindling voter base because of emigration caused by hardship. There are 2.36 million eligible voters, compared with 2.87 million in 2016 and 2.4 million in 2012.

Despite the drop in eligible voters, the diversity of parties and candidates has increased in recent years, eroding the grip of the traditional parties.

Rafael Fonseca, an administrator, said he had hoped neither of the two

parties would win this year.

“They’ve been doing the same thing for years and there’s no change,” he said, adding that the island’s public education system needs to be improved and wages increased to prevent the loss of young people moving to the U.S. mainland in search of work.

Fonseca lamented that the energy fueling last year’s protests and demands for new leaders seemed to have dissipated.

“Puerto Ricans have a short memory,” he said, adding that he remains hopeful a nontraditional party will eventually lead Puerto Rico. “Possibly not in my lifetime.”

The election came amid an economic crisis and efforts to restructure a portion of Puerto Rico’s more than \$70 billion public debt, which officials declared unpayable in 2015.

The new governor will have to work alongside a federal control board that oversees Puerto Rico’s finances and has clashed with local officials over austerity measures, including proposed public pension cuts.

Oklahoma elects first nonbinary legislator

Turner: ‘I have lived my whole life in the margins’

Carmen Forman
The Oklahoman

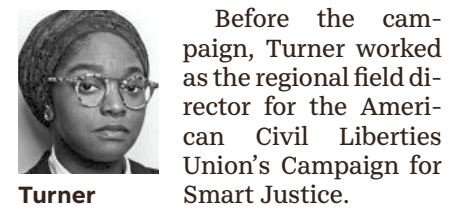
OKLAHOMA CITY – An Oklahoma Democrat elected Tuesday will make history as the first Muslim in the Oklahoma Legislature and the first nonbinary legislator in America.

Progressive community organizer Mauree Turner won the race in House District 88 and will break barriers in Oklahoma’s statehouse.

Turner took more than 71% of the votes in Oklahoma’s 88th congressional district, which includes Oklahoma City, beating out Republican candidate Kelly Barlean, a retired attorney.

Asked about the victory, Turner, 27, said it was hard to describe the feeling.

“For me, this means a lot,” Turner said. “I have lived my whole life in the margins.”



Before the campaign, Turner worked as the regional field director for the American Civil Liberties Union’s Campaign for Smart Justice.

Turner is nonbinary, meaning their gender identity is not strictly male or female. Turner is also Black and queer.

The LGBTQ Victory Fund said Turner is the first openly nonbinary person elected to a state legislature. There are only five openly LGBTQ elected officials in Oklahoma, the group said in a news release.

Growing up, Turner struggled with being different from other kids.

“As a child, I honestly remember having conversations with my mom where I thought that things would just be better if I was white, or if I was just different in some way, shape or form,” Turner said. “So, it means a lot to be able to provide that visibility for other folks.”

Turner was raised in a Muslim and Baptist household, and is a member of the Masjid Mu’Min mosque in Oklahoma City.

Turner’s win will allow the Muslim community to see someone who is openly and visibly Muslim in elected office, said Lani Habrock, government affairs director for the Oklahoma chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

Libertarian Party wins its 5th statehouse seat

Burt elected to Wyoming House over incumbent

Elinor Aspegren
USA TODAY

The Libertarian Party earned a historic victory Tuesday, clinching a statehouse seat for the first time in nearly two decades.

Marshall Burt was elected to the Wyoming House of Representatives in its 39th district, defeating Democrat incumbent Stan Blake, said Bob Johnston on the Libertarian National Committee.

“This is only the fifth time in Libertarian Party history a candidate running only on the LP label has been elected to a state legislature, and the first time in 20 years,” he wrote in a statement.

Before Burt’s victory, the Libertarian Party’s last state win was in 2002, when Vermont Rep. Neil Randall was reelected to his second and final term in the state legislature.

Burt will be Wyoming’s first third-party legislator in more than a century, the Casper Star-Tribune reported.

The Star-Tribune described Blake as “a beloved figure in local politics”

The Libertarian Party’s last state win was in 2002, when Vermont Rep. Neil Randall was reelected.

who often voted with Republicans in the Wyoming House.

“It has been an honor to serve the citizens of Sweetwater County,” Blake wrote in a Facebook post Tuesday night. “They have spoken with their votes. My efforts came up short. I have so many people to thank who contributed, put up signs, walked with me and gave tremendous support. I congratulated my opponent and wished him luck. I am so excited for what the future holds.”

The Libertarian Party’s presidential nominee, Jo Jorgensen, received the second-highest number of votes in the party’s 49-year history. Only Gary Johnson, who received 3.28% of the vote in 2016, has received greater support in a presidential election.

50★States

News from across the USA

ALABAMA Montgomery: The state is extending a public health order requiring face masks in public but lifting occupancy limits on many places as deaths and hospitalizations from the coronavirus pandemic worsen, officials said Thursday.

ALASKA Juneau: Hospital capacity is a concern as COVID-19 cases in the state rise, and testing isn't keeping pace with new cases, the state health department reported Wednesday. In many cases, contact tracers haven't been able to identify where a person got the virus, the department said, which suggests more unknown cases.

ARIZONA Phoenix: Some social media users are falsely claiming that ballots are being invalidated. In what's come to be known as #Sharpiegate, posts suggest that election officials in Maricopa County provided voters with Sharpie pens, which interfered with ballots being recorded, specifically for President Donald Trump. Election officials say voting with a Sharpie would have no impact on tabulation machines.

ARKANSAS El Dorado: Voters in two counties have decided to keep Confederate monuments on display in public spaces. In Tuesday's election, voters opted to keep monuments in place outside the Union County courthouse in El Dorado and the Ouachita County courthouse in Camden.

CALIFORNIA Sacramento: Fresh from months of protests over the police killings of people of color and racial inequities in the criminal justice system, the state's voters rejected an effort to roll back reforms targeting mass incarceration and reinstate tougher criminal penalties. But they also overturned a law that would have ended what critics call a predatory cash bail system.

COLORADO Denver: Hospitalizations from the coronavirus are expected to surpass the high levels seen in April in the next two or three days, state health officials said Wednesday.

CONNECTICUT Hartford: Democrats were optimistic Wednesday that they've substantially increased their ranks in the General Assembly following Tuesday's elections.

DELAWARE Dover: City offices have closed temporarily after a few internal employees and their family members tested positive for the coronavirus, a city official said.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Washington: D.C. residents have voted "yes" on Initiative 81, making possession and use of certain psychedelic plants, including magic mushrooms, the lowest enforcement priority for police. The initiative will now go to the DC Council for review, before being reviewed by Congress to officially make it law, WUSA-TV reports.

FLORIDA Orlando: The wealthy attorney who bankrolled campaigns to raise the state's minimum wage and legalize medical marijuana says his electoral success in raising Florida's starting pay to \$15 an hour over the next six years is his swan song in the voter initiative process. Attorney John Morgan said Wednesday that he was done with efforts to amend the Florida Constitution.

GEORGIA Savannah: A prosecutor who was criticized for her office's response to the fatal shooting of Ahmaud Arbery has been ousted by voters, who elected an independent candidate. District Attorney Jackie Johnson, a Republican, lost her reelection bid Tuesday.

HAWAII Hilo: A state law is needed to contend with people who ignore mask mandates, Gov. David Ige said.

IDAHO Boise: State education officials say so many people have applied for federal emergency money to help children learn during the pandemic that they'll stop taking applications after Friday. The Strong Families, Strong Students program will provide up to \$1,500 per child.

ILLINOIS Springfield: The state reported 7,538 new cases of coronavirus illness Wednesday, and the state public health director reminded residents that regardless of who the nation's next president is, it's up to individuals to stop the spread of the deadly diseases.

INDIANA Indianapolis: The day after a landslide reelection victory, Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb said he's not making any changes to policy on handling COVID-19, a major point of contention on the campaign trail.

HIGHLIGHT: MINNESOTA



Police arrest people on I-94 during a march Wednesday in Minneapolis. AP

Minneapolis: Law enforcement officers arrested more than 600 demonstrators who marched onto an interstate Wednesday night protesting President Donald Trump's threats to challenge the results of Tuesday's unsettled election, as well as a variety of social injustices. Officers in riot gear surrounded the crowd and ordered them to sit on the pavement and wait to be arrested. At one point as the marchers awaited arrest, a spontaneous dance party broke out on the freeway. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety said no force or chemicals were used to make the arrests for walking on a freeway and being a public nuisance.

IOWA Des Moines: Gov. Kim Reynolds said Thursday that she will institute a media campaign to encourage people to take action to reduce the state's surging number of coronavirus infections but will not impose any mandates or enforce new rules. Reynolds also said the success of Republican candidates in the general election was proof that most Iowans support her decision to not require masks and quickly end most restrictions on businesses.

KANSAS Topeka: Several dozen hospitals reported Wednesday that they expect to deal with staffing shortages in the next week as the state continues to report an average of well over 1,000 new coronavirus cases a day.

KENTUCKY Frankfort: The state's budget situation appears solid enough to avoid cuts to state agencies or the Road Fund as revenues bounce back despite the pandemic, Gov. Andy Beshear said Wednesday.

LOUISIANA Baton Rouge: Even as his coronavirus restrictions are challenged in court, Gov. John Bel Edwards announced Thursday that he's extending a statewide mask mandate, business limitations and other rules he enacted to combat COVID-19 for another four weeks.

MAINE Portland: Gov. Janet Mills issued an executive order Thursday requiring people to wear face coverings in public settings regardless of their ability to maintain physical distance from others.

MARYLAND Annapolis: Legalized sports betting in the state could start next summer after voters approved it Tuesday, but lawmakers still need to work out the details of how it will be implemented in the upcoming legislative session.

MASSACHUSETTS Springfield: Two former administrators of a veterans home where nearly 80 people sickened by the coronavirus died pleaded not guilty Thursday to criminal charges over their handling of the outbreak. Former Holyoke Soldiers' Home Superintendent Bennett Walsh and former Medical Director Dr. David Clinton entered the pleas during a remote hearing in Hampden Superior Court.

MICHIGAN Detroit: It doesn't hurt to be a Hathaway to become a judge in Wayne County. Nicholas Hathaway will join his wife as a judge on the Detroit-area Circuit Court after changing his last name to hers last year and narrowly winning election Tuesday. By blood or by marriage, at least 10 members of the Hathaway family have served as Wayne County judges over the past two decades.

MISSISSIPPI Jackson: A couple is suing the Simpson County School District because they say their 9-year-old daughter was told she could not wear a mask with the phrase "Jesus Loves Me."

MISSOURI St. Charles: A suburban St. Louis election official who worked at a polling place on Election Day despite a positive test for the coronavirus has now died, raising concerns for the nearly 2,000 people who voted at the Blanchette Park Memorial Hall.

MONTANA Great Falls: The four-member staff of Pondera County's health department has resigned, citing a lack of support by the county in fighting the coronavirus.

NEBRASKA Lincoln: The state's voters set a turnout record in the 2020 general election, with nearly 74% of eligible voters casting a ballot, Nebraska's top election official said Wednesday.

NEVADA Carson City: Clark County District Court Judge Douglas Hernon won an open seat on the state Supreme Court after a race that drew more than \$1 million in campaign contributions, more than any of Nevada's legislative races.

NEW HAMPSHIRE Concord: The state's 13 mayors sent a letter to Gov. Chris Sununu on Wednesday asking for help with a statewide strategy to assist the homeless, saying they were seeing an increase in people living without shelter even before the coronavirus pandemic.

NEW JERSEY Trenton: More than 4 million ballots were cast in this week's presidential election in New Jersey, the most in state history, Gov. Phil Murphy said Thursday.

NEW MEXICO Santa Fe: Democrats have expanded their control of the Legislature, teeing up a progressive agenda that aims to broadly legalize marijuana, expand funding for universal prekindergarten programs and possibly enshrine abortion rights into state law.

NEW YORK New York: Buddhists, Christians, Jews, Muslims and people of other faiths prayed and sang together in post-election solidarity Wednesday afternoon in Manhattan's Greenwich Village. The budding interfaith coalition ritual was first held four years ago after Donald Trump was elected president.

NORTH CAROLINA Raleigh: An elderly inmate with preexisting conditions and a positive coronavirus test has died, officials said. A news release from the N.C. Department of Public Safety said the 80-year-old inmate died at the Central Prison hospital Tuesday.

NORTH DAKOTA Bismarck: Gov. Doug Burgum has no authority to appoint a coal company executive to fill a state House seat won by a Republican candidate who died before the election, the state's attorney general said Wednesday. Burgum announced Wednesday that he was appointing BNI Energy President Wade Boeshans to the seat won Tuesday by David Andahl, who died last month from COVID-19.

OHIO Columbus: The number of people filing initial unemployment compensation claims spiked 21% over the past week as the economic impact of the pandemic continues to hit Ohio hard, the state human services agency said Thursday.

OKLAHOMA Oklahoma City: The last Democratic state lawmaker from a rural district of Oklahoma lost his reelection bid Tuesday, while the GOP picked up five more House seats to extend its advantage to 82-19. All of the 19 state House Democrats and nine Senate Democrats now represent urban areas.

OREGON Portland: Gov. Kate Brown said Wednesday that she would keep state troopers, sheriff's deputies and police officers under a unified command for another 48 hours in Portland, until 5 p.m. Friday, to handle protests amid uncertainty over the winner of the presidential election.

PENNSYLVANIA Harrisburg: Democratic U.S. Rep. Conor Lamb declared victory in a Pittsburgh-area congressional district. The winners of four of Pennsylvania's 18 congressional races, included Lamb's, remained unclear, along with the makeup of a good chunk of the Legislature.

RHODE ISLAND Providence: State health officials reported more than 500 new cases of the coronavirus and eight additional deaths Thursday.

SOUTH CAROLINA Charleston: The state's first elected female sheriff, Kristin Graziano, hopes her win – and her vision for reshaping one of the largest local law enforcement agencies in the state – will open doors for women and girls. Graziano, a Democrat and deputy sheriff in Charleston County, won over a majority of voters, defeating her boss and 32-year Republican incumbent Al Cannon, whose record has been closely scrutinized as activists have raised calls for police reform in recent months.

SOUTH DAKOTA Sioux Falls: Minnehaha County's top election official has tested positive for the coronavirus just hours after wrapping up ballot counting. Auditor Bob Litz spent hours in close contact with dozens of election workers over two days. Litz donned a mask throughout counting but at times wore it improperly.

TENNESSEE Nashville: State officials say Tennessee has easily broken the 2008 record for voter turnout with more than 3 million ballots cast in this year's general election. Secretary of State Tre Hargett's office said the turnout represents more than 68% of registered voters.

TEXAS Austin: More than 800 mail ballots were found in mail processing facilities in the state and delivered to county election officials between Tuesday and Wednesday, according to the U.S. Postal Service.

UTAH Salt Lake City: A pickup truck crashed into a coronavirus testing site near the University of Utah on Thursday, injuring nine people and demolishing a medical trailer. Authorities say the driver may have suffered a medical problem.

VERMONT Winooski: Voters in this small city, which has one of the highest concentrations of new Americans and immigrants in Vermont, have decided to allow noncitizens the right to vote in local elections. The amendment to the city charter now heads to the Legislature. If it passes and goes through another round of public input, the proposal moves to the governor for final approval.

VIRGINIA Roanoke: The lead partner in the Mountain Valley Pipeline venture has pushed back its expected completion date to the second half of 2021 and expects costs to rise.

WASHINGTON Republic: Republican gubernatorial candidate Loren Culp lost his race Tuesday and now says he also has lost his job as police chief. In a Facebook video chat with supporters Wednesday, Culp revealed that the City Council had defunded its one-person police department, "and away with that went my job." Culp lost the governor's race to Democratic incumbent Jay Inslee.

WEST VIRGINIA Charleston: Republicans expanded their majorities in the Legislature after taking at least 10 seats from Democrats in Tuesday's election. Enthusiasm for President Donald Trump at the top of the ticket helped solidify the Republican takeover in a state where labor-backed Democrats once reigned. Republican Gov. Jim Justice won reelection.

WISCONSIN Madison: State health officials reported nearly 6,000 new COVID-19 cases Thursday as the disease continues to run rampant. The Wisconsin Hospital Association reported 1,747 people were hospitalized with COVID-19 as of Wednesday, including 360 patients in intensive care and 559 on ventilators.

WYOMING Laramie: City officials say a mask mandate is expected to go into effect Friday in Albany County to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

From USA TODAY Network and wire reports

ELECTION 2020

How to talk to children about election

‘Kids can pick up on your anxieties and worries’

Alia E. Dastagir
USA TODAY

While parents watch the electoral map, children watch their parents. They observe how the adults around them talk about democracy, civility, their neighbors and one another. “Kids can pick up on your anxieties and worries,” said Vaile Wright, senior director of health care innovation at the American Psychological Association. The moment offers an opportunity to talk to children not only about one of the most consequential elections in history but also about values.

USA TODAY spoke with Wright, Nancy Deutsch, a professor of education at the University of Virginia, and Jenna Glover, child psychologist and director of psychology training in the Pediatric Mental Health Institute at Children’s Hospital Colorado, on how to talk to children about election night and what lies ahead.

Be as direct as possible

Glover said the best way for families to talk about the election is to be as direct as possible, while handing the microphone to the kids.

“They will actually feel more worried and upset when parents and adults ignore talking to them about it, rather than addressing it head-on,” she said.

To Glover, the easiest way to start the conversation is to ask: What have you heard, and how do you feel about it?

Mistakes many parents make include focusing on their own emotions in an unproductive way, vilifying the “other side” or not resolving arguments – which, Glover said, fails to give children the tools to cope, disagree or regulate their emotions. By allowing kids to lead the discussion and see how to come to agreements, they can navigate what they feel in a healthy way.

A teaching moment

The election is a perfect opportunity to help kids become more familiar with structures of government, the rules of voting and the Electoral College.

“Using developmentally appropriate language based on their age, explain how voting in the U.S. works and the circumstances that make this year different – for example, the pandemic caus-



A child gets free snacks outside an early voting site on Oct. 30 in Milwaukee. During an election, children can also pick up vibes from the adults around them.

MICHAEL MCLOONE/AP

“An election is a great time to introduce some civics lessons into our family conversations.”

Nancy Deutsch
professor of education at the University of Virginia

ing more people to vote by mail,” Wright said.

Deutsch suggested talking with children about “systemic racism and sexism – who is represented and who is not in our governmental structures. Part of our role as parents is to raise civically engaged and civically minded people, and an election is a great time to introduce some civics lessons into our family conversations.”

A good time to talk about values

Deutsch said discussions about politics can be a good way of affirming family values. Talk to your kids about what

you as a family care about and how those values are reflected in different policies that politicians support.

“For example, if we care about the environment, what are candidates doing to protect the environment in terms of the policies they propose and support? If we care about racial justice and systemic racism, what have candidates done and said that would help promote racial equity through governmental policies?” Deutsch asked.

Developing news literacy

Children are growing up with far more news sources than their parents. It’s important, experts said, they learn how to think about what constitutes credible information.

Deutsch said parents can help “our kids critically examine information and seek out reliable news sources.”

They’ll want to learn the difference between reporting and opinion and how to judge the quality and validity of information on social media or a news outlet.

As social media becomes a platform for more people to share their political views, Glover said, parents and children can learn about having safe discussions and disagreements in online formats.

If your candidate doesn’t win ...

Wright said it’s important to validate feelings your child may have about the election, especially if your family’s candidate loses.

“Explain that disappointment ... is normal and can include a variety of feelings such as anger, sadness, grief and fear,” Wright said. “Tell them it’s OK to feel these feelings and not to judge them.”

For families who may feel their safety is at risk, it’s important kids know the adults have a safety plan.

“Make sure that your kid has ways to process anxiety and worry if they are expressing that and that you can talk to them about what networks of support you and your family have if they are concerned about what may happen to them or you if results go one way or another,” Deutsch said.

Parents should assure kids that no matter what the outcome, the family will continue to live their values and work toward a world that reflects them.

“Whatever the results of an election, whether or not they go the way we may have personally hoped, there is always work to be done in making the world a better place, and we can think about ways that we will do that together as a family,” Deutsch said.

Plan regular check-ins

Glover stressed the need to have politics-based conversations regularly so the topics seem more approachable during stressful times. “Kids worry about talking about things that are uncomfortable or difficult because they don’t have the space to do it,” she said. “I think we all can improve on that.”

Especially in uncertain elections, she said, it’s important to take breaks – and recognize what’s in the family’s control.

“We all need additional support right now to be resilient in this time,” she said. “This is a time that families can really start thinking about, ‘What is it that we can control, and what is it that we can actually do?’ and let go of these larger things that certainly impact us, but there’s nothing that we can do but wait.”

Contributing: Wyattte Grantham-Philips

Election night viewership down 20%; Fox leads way

Bill Keveney
USA TODAY

The presidential race did not have a declared winner, but Fox News Channel easily took the TV ratings crown as all three major cable news networks attracted more viewers than the broadcast networks, according to final Nielsen ratings data for election night, when 56.9 million watched prime-time coverage on 21 networks.

That figure was down 20% from the 71.4 million who watched prime-time results in 2016, Nielsen says.

Fox’s election night coverage, anchored by Bret Baier and Martha MacCallum, won 14.1 million viewers during prime time Tuesday (8-11 p.m. EST), far ahead of second-place CNN (9.4 million) and MSNBC (7.6 million).

Echoing the slow migration of news viewers to cable, all three bested broadcasters, led by ABC with 6.3 million viewers. NBC followed with 5.7 million; CBS averaged 4.5 million; and the Fox broadcast network had 3 million. NBC and Fox offered coverage separate from their affiliated cable news networks. Figures for PBS, C-SPAN, Spanish-language broadcasters and others are not included.

Fox News said its performance marked the most-watched election night in cable news history. The cable news network finished first among viewers in the key news demographic (ages 25 to 54) but finished second to CNN among younger adults (ages 18 to 34).

Voters drop ‘Plantations’ from Rhode Island’s official name

Tom Mooney
The Providence Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – It’s called Rhode Island now. Just Rhode Island.

Riding a national wave of awareness about racial injustice, Rhode Island voters on Tuesday approved shortening the state’s official name and lopping off the centuries-old phrase “and Providence Plantations” that supporters said held connotations of slavery.

Officially, Rhode Island was incorporated as The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations when it declared statehood in 1790.

The vote was close, and for most of Tuesday evening it appeared the measure had failed.

“I think Rhode Island has turned a page,” said state Rep. Anastasia Williams, who had helped draw attention to the question – and to Rhode Island’s role in the transatlantic slave trade. “It means Rhode Islanders have joined forces and embraced the fact that we are, one. Period.”

Richard Lee, a retired special-education director from Jamestown, and other opponents of the measure had argued the word “plantation” had no association with slavery when Roger Williams settled Providence in 1636. Then, the word referred only to a tract of land, or a farm. They argued “Providence Plantations” was history worth preserving.

Dozens of people polled across the state Tuesday gave various reasons for why they supported or opposed the measure.



The official seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. Rhode Island was incorporated as The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations when it declared statehood in 1790. THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL/DAVID DELPIOIO

Some supported it not because it meant much to them personally, they said, but because it offended other Rhode Islanders.

Others favored the name change, they said, because in this moment of racial reckoning it was time for Rhode Island to rid itself of a term imbued with racial subjugation.

The push for the name change had some big supporters.

Gov. Gina Raimondo and General Assembly leaders all struck the word “plantations” from their official documents this summer, as did Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza. Raimondo said the word was associated with “the ugliest institution” in the nation’s history.

Brother Gary Dantzler, a leader in the

Rhode Island Black Lives Matter movement, expressed gratitude that so many Rhode Islanders had rallied around their Black neighbors.

“It’s almost soulful,” he said. “It makes me feel good and very grateful that people are paying attention and really staying focused, to say, ‘Let me think of helping someone as a collective group.’”

“I’m very impressed. It’s monumental to us as African Americans,” Dantzler said. “Rhode Island is changing. Hugely. It makes me feel great that there is room for change.”

Contributing: Brown University journalism students Liv Simmons, Olivia George, Kayla Guo and Aida Sherif; The Associated Press